

Austria Sch 32; Belgium B Fr 62;
Canada \$2.75; Charles Pcs 225;
Cyprus Pcs 1.50; France Dr 16.00;
Germany DM 4.00; Gibraltar Mop;
Greece Dr 100; Holland 1.75;
Iceland 400; Italy 2.00; Luxembourg Li 55; Malta Esc 250; Malta
15m; Monaco Dr 250; Norway Kr.
250; Portugal Esc 18.00; Spain Pes 225;
Sweden Kr 16.00; Switzerland S Fr 3.80; Tunisia Dina
1.50; USA \$3.00.

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Life & Times section
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40p

Palestinians hesitate but agree to attend talks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN negotiators will attend Middle East peace talks in Washington next week, although they have delayed their departure after the arrest of two members of their delegation by Israeli authorities.

Although PLO officials said last night that the delegation would be in place by February 24, the Palestinian hesitation coincided with renewed cross-border artillery exchanges between Hezbollah and Israeli gunners. The discomfit of the Palestinian delegation was set out by Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, who accused the Israelis of deliberately attempting to sabotage

the talks by their arrest of Mohamed Houri and Jamal Shioaki, two West Bank Palestinian professors selected for the first time to attend the talks.

"The whole peace process cannot be maintained while there is any clear violation, not only of Palestinian rights, but of the very integrity and principles underlying the process," she said. "From all indications the peace process is on the brink of collapse." The Israeli delegation spokesman, Benjamin Netanyahu, countered by accusing the detained men of "organising terrorist actions", and demanded that the Palestinians choose whether they wanted to take peace or wage war. "We of course have the right and obligation as a responsible government to stop these people and prevent such destructive activity as this," he said.

Although all the previous rounds of bilateral talks have been preceded by posturing and point scoring, first by the Israelis in December and then by the Arabs in January, the latest threat has been compounded by the worsening security situation along the Lebanese border.

Israelis living in northern Galilee were on the receiving end of about 40 Katyusha rockets fired in the early hours of yesterday morning by Shia Muslim Hezbollah gunners, who targeted another 25 projectiles into the Israeli-controlled security zone. Israeli artillery positions retaliated by shelling Shia Muslim villages east of the southern port city of Tyre, which Lebanese civilians have been fleeing for two days, since the

assassination of the Hezbollah leader Sheikh Abbas Moussawi and his family on Sunday by two Israeli Apache helicopter gunships. Lebanese sources in the region claimed that the Israeli helicopters attempted a repeat operation yesterday when they fired rockets into the home of Hezbollah commander Ali Ezzeddine at the village of Zawtar al-Gharbiya, wounding his daughter. Israeli political and military leaders predicted they would not hesitate to step their actions if Israeli towns continued to be hit. Speaking in the northern Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmona, Moshe Arens, Israel's defence minister, predicted that the attacks cycle of attacks and reprisals would continue.

"I am sure they are going to try. We are going to try to stop them," he

said. "I think one thing is clear — if there are going to be disturbances towards the civilian population in the northern part of Israel, it is not going to be easy on the other side of the border."

In the current tense atmosphere the slightest provocation from Hezbollah, such as the execution of the captured Israeli air force navigator Captain Ron Arad, could be enough to lead to an all out war, with Israeli ground forces going into action outside the security zone. A leaflet distributed by the fundamentalist group Islamic Jihad-Palestine, which is linked to Hezbollah, said yesterday: "Slaughter the Jews with your knives and your sickles."

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Ashrawi: peace process on brink of collapse

Minister urges new referendum

Reynolds calls all-party talks over abortion

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ALBERT Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, yesterday offered to hold urgent talks with opposition leaders about the case of the teenage rape victim who has been refused the right to have an abortion.

He issued the invitation as ministers conceded for the first time that a new referendum on the subject may now be inevitable.

Mr Reynolds, who has been in office for only a week, was trying to diffuse the in-

creasingly bitter dispute after Harry Whelehan, the Attorney General, was granted an injunction preventing the girl, aged 14, from having an abortion in Britain.

Opposition leaders, civil rights and women's groups have called for the constitution, which forced Mr Whelehan's intervention, to be changed. The pro-life provision in the constitution, which leaves no scope for exceptional circumstances, was inserted after a referendum in 1983.

Mr Reynolds told the Dail that he wanted party leaders to join him for discussions "on the general issues as distinct from the special and tragic circumstances of the case". He seemed to accept that nothing could be done to help the girl after Monday's High Court ruling restraining her from travelling abroad during the next nine months.

"That judgment is long and detailed," he told the Dail, "and it would not be productive for us in this house to jump to immediate solutions. The whole matter, involving as it does the most basic human rights and specific provisions of our constitution ... requires the most careful and detailed consideration."

Within hours of his statement, Bobby Molloy, the minister for energy and one of two Progressive Democrat members of cabinet, said he hoped an all-party solution could be found but it was

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European Times

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Daggers drawn as Tories do battle over Lloyd's

CLAIMS of malpractice in the Lloyd's insurance market have led to an unprecedented outbreak of internecine warfare among Conservative MPs at Westminster.

Tam Dalyell, veteran of many a battle, military and political, had seen nothing like it when he went to a meeting at the training school building at Lloyd's of London on Monday. Peter Viggers, Conservative MP for Gosport and a member of the council of Lloyd's, had invited MPs from all parties to hear the outcome of the "task force" which reported last month on the market's operation.

It had been arranged before the recent spate of claims of "structural rottenness" and suggestions that Lloyd's insiders had profited at the expense of outside investors. After the presentations by David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's,

and David Rowland, chairman of the Sedgwick's insurance company and leader of the task force, the questioning was led by Paul Marland, Tory MP for West Gloucestershire, and Lord Alexander of Tunis, son of the field marshal of that name.

Both Lloyd's "names", they are the strongest parliamentary critics of Lloyd's operations. Mr Dalyell, the only Labour MP at the meeting, who went along as an "innocent seeker after truth", was shocked at the hostile attitude of the Tory questioners.

Mr Marland reportedly asked Mr Coleridge to state in which of his three capacities he was appearing: chairman of Lloyd's, the person responsible for the regulation of the market, or chairman of Sturge Holdings, "from which you earn £800,000". Lord Alexander

MPs are reaching new depths of undignified behaviour over allegations of "rotteness" in the insurance market, Philip Webster reports

reportedly spoke of his heavy losses and asked whether Lloyd's had any sense of duty to its members. One witness said: "The Spanish Inquisition had nothing on this."

As the interrogation proceeded Mr Dalyell finally intervened in stentorian tones: "In my 29½ years as an MP I have never ever witnessed such gratuitous rudeness and bad behaviour," he boomed, bringing loud cheers from many of the Tories, including John Biffen, Hugh Dykes and Dame Peggy Fenner.

The incident was symptomatic of the tensions that have been aroused since the allegations last week on the Commons order

paper, that outsiders have been "dumped" into dublin syndicates and become liable to substantial losses and bankruptcy.

Many Tory "names" were outraged when it was disclosed that their colleagues had colluded with their Labour counterparts to bring the allegations into the open. The motions led to newspaper headlines suggesting "new scandals" at Lloyd's. Tory MPs complain the "leakers" are doing untold damage to the institution. More than 50 of them, including four cabinet ministers, are Lloyd's names. Ministers do not have to give up their membership because their interests are handled by agents and

they can have no influence.

At least two unnamed Tory MPs were involved in the leak to Labour MP Brian Sedgemore, and front bench City spokesman Marjorie Mowlam.

A handful of Tory MPs are known to have made substantial losses, one of them, it is alleged, around £250,000. The 300 syndicates have been hit by heavy claims resulting from a series of catastrophes, including the Piper Alpha North Sea oil disaster.

In the hard-bitten world of politics and business, there is little sympathy for the losers, even from their colleagues. One Tory MP said: "They went into the casino. They knew the rules. I did not hear them complaining in the good days."

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Major and Reynolds to meet at No 10 to discuss the worsening violence in Northern Ireland

London talks on Ulster speeded up

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major, the prime minister, is to meet Albert Reynolds, the new Taoiseach, next week for discussions on the deteriorating security situation in Northern Ireland and the prospect for political progress. It was disclosed yesterday.

The meeting, a week today, is the latest in a series by Mr Major on the Irish question and follows discussions with the four constitutional party leaders from the province at Downing Street last week and with Robin Eames, the Church of Ireland Primate, on Monday.

Mr Reynolds, who has spoken several times on the telephone with Mr Major about the latest killings in Northern

Ireland since he was formally appointed last week, will be renewing his acquaintance with the prime minister whom he came to know at EC meetings where both were finance ministers.

Mr Reynolds said: "in the Dail yesterday that a planned meeting in London had been brought forward because of the changed situation in Northern Ireland. He said the Irish government was determined that those who resorted to violence would not succeed.

"The road ahead must be to see what initiative we can take to put us back on a path to peace," he said. Mr Reynolds has made it clear that he is willing to meet Unionist leaders at any time and anywhere to discuss how best to make progress.

Yesterday he ruled out any immediate change to articles two and three of the Irish constitution which lay claim to Northern Ireland. "It's too simplistic that the removal of articles 2 and 3 will solve the problem overnight," he said.

Those also attending next week's meeting will include David Andrews, Ireland's new foreign affairs minister, Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, and Tritan Garel-Jones, the Foreign Office minister.

Meanwhile, in Belfast there were expectations of yet more sectarian violence after the Irish People's Liberation Organisation, the republican splinter group, killed a 17-year-old Protestant, Andrew Johnston, in retaliation for recent killings by Loyalist paramilitaries, including the murder of five Roman Catholics at a betting shop. He had no connection with the security forces.

Mr Johnston's death came hours after four members of the IRA were killed by undercover soldiers — almost certainly the SAS — in an ambush at Coalisland in Co Tyrone. Two of the dead, Kevin O'Donnell, aged 21, who was acquitted on charges of possessing weapons with intent by an Old Bailey jury last year, and his former schoolfriend Sean O'Farrell also 21, will be buried in Coalisland tomorrow.

Patrick Vincent, aged 20, and Peter Clancy, aged 21, are expected to be buried near the town today. Police are still questioning one of the two members of the IRA team they captured. The other is in hospital.

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Labour to spell out tax plans

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S taxation and spending plans are expected to be spelt out in greater detail before the general election in a move designed to end uncertainty over them.

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, is expected soon after the Budget on March 10 to elaborate on Labour's commitment to bring in a 50p top rate of tax and to abolish the ceiling on national insurance contributions. He is expected to indicate the income level at which the new top rate will bite and the extent to which plans to raise the national insurance contributions of the better-off will be phased in.

The move marks a shift from Mr Smith's public position that he will not give further details before the election because he wants a free hand in his first Budget.

It is understood that Labour now believes that it can only gain by spelling out its plans with as much detail as possible, although final decisions would depend on what it saw in the Treasury books once elected. With the Conservatives certain to make Labour's tax proposals central to their election assault, Labour leaders believe that they should underline the limited scope of the proposed changes and the pension and child benefit improvements that they would finance.



Trouble flares: burning vehicles in the New Lodge area of Belfast yesterday on the second day of sporadic rioting

London abortion may cost £500

Many Irish women are prepared to pay the high price of travelling to England for an abortion, Richard Ford reports

MANY Irish women having abortions in Britain arrive alone and at weekends without enough money for the operation, according to advice organisations.

While many have learned about abortion agencies from a private telephone network operating in the Irish Republic, some have been given information by sympathetic family doctors in the south.

Others, however, need a room and companionship which is often provided by the Irish Women's Abortion Support Group, an organisation with people who will provide accommodation in London. Others, according to one doctor working with the British Pregnancy Advisory Service at Victoria, central London are much more self-assured.

The doctor, who did not want to be named, said: "Most come on their own and many are married women who have completed their families. They are often much more self-possessed than many English women."

A survey carried out in 1989 among 50 Irish women who had abortions in England found that the chief concern of 38 per cent of them was travelling to London. Several of the women were worried about coming to the city as it was perceived as unfriendly and intimidating.

The survey, by Dr Colin

Francome of Middlesex Polytechnic, found that almost a quarter were worried about the cost of having an abortion as they had to pay for travel, hotel rooms and the operation.

Women arriving at the BPAS's Victoria centre are seen by counsellors for about 40 minutes. The counsellors outline what an abortion involves and enquire into their medical history and the reasons why they are seeking a termination. They are then seen by two doctors and if it is decided to go ahead, the women will enter a nursing home the following day for the operation. She must stay in the nursing home overnight before returning to Ireland the next day.

Tara Kaufmann, a spokesman for the advisory service, said that one difficulty facing counsellors was that there was little time to provide advice to women doubtful about abortion. "When a British woman is ambivalent about going ahead we send them home to think about it. These Irish women cannot do that."

The cost of the abortion is £250 but with fares and other bills many women face paying £500 or more.

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Dentists' charges to fall

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

Charges to patients for dental treatment are to be cut by 13.8 per cent from April 1 under changes to dentists' fees being demanded by the government.

The cut would reduce the cost of an examination from £3.75 to £3.30 and a general filling from £7.95 to £6.75.

The charge for a crown, £56.25, would fall to £48.00.

Details of the cut emerged last night, less than a week after the government announced that prescription charges were to rise by more than 10 per cent to £3.75 per item. The maximum charge for a course of dental treatment is to rise from £225 to £250 but charges for individual treatments will fall.

The reduction in the charges follows from a government proposal to cap fees paid to dentists. Last week the Doctors and Dentists Pay Review Body recommended an 8.5 per cent pay rise for dentists, double the rate of inflation, which would lift their pay from £33,010 to £35,815.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, told dentists last week that because of a substantial overpayment this year they had already received more than the 8.5 per cent rise, and a cut would be necessary. Patients pay 75 per cent of the cost of treatment, so any cut in fees is passed on to them.

GPs to get wider buying powers

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

A BIG expansion of GP funding will be unveiled tomorrow by William Waldegrave, the health secretary, in an attempt to steal Labour's thunder as it launches its plans to scrap the government's market-based reforms of the NHS.

Mr Waldegrave will announce that he is extending the range of services that fund-holders are entitled to buy on behalf of patients. In a move aimed at ensuring that patients are not forgotten when they are discharged from hospital, family doctors controlling budgets as big as £1 million will be given the right to purchase community nurse and district health authority health visitors.

GPs have been pressing for the change in an area widely regarded as one of the weak spots in the NHS. At present, many patients slip through the net because they are no longer the immediate responsibility of a hospital or a GP.

In the Commons yesterday Mr Waldegrave clashed repeatedly with Mr Cook over fund-holding. Mr Cook attacked fund-holding for producing a "two-tier" service in which patients referred by participating practices as

Waldegrave: defended recent NHS changes

Child snatching cases soaring

Child snatching by parents either to or from England and Wales has risen twelve-fold in five years, according to statistics from the Lord Chancellor's department (Frances Gibb writes).

The hard-bitten world of politics and business, there is little sympathy for the losers, even from their colleagues. One Tory MP said: "They went into the casino. They knew the rules. I did not hear them complaining in the good days."

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Bungling art thieves jailed

Two men who tried to steal Van Gogh paintings worth £130 million from the National Gallery in London were jailed yesterday.

Philip Neasham, aged 22, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, was jailed for four years, and Jason Wilkins, aged 21, of Atherton, Warwickshire, for three years and eight months. Before the raid last May their getaway car was damped on a double yellow line. They tried to free it, drawing the attention of police who found a burglar's kit including two grenades and a plan of the gallery.

Peer's archive may be split

A rich archive of family papers risks being dispersed at auction. The papers, owned by Lord Brownlow, include letters from Henry VIII and Gladstone.

The peer is offering the papers, kept at Belton House, Lincolnshire, to the county council for £250,000. It has until autumn to raise funds, and so far has £120,000 from donations, including a pledge of £70,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Chris Johnson, county archive manager, said: "It would be unenviable if we lost these treasures."

City challenge

THE Prince of Wales has launched a search for a city prepared to match the success of the great Victorian cities in using science and technology to serve the people. A new award, similar to the European City of Culture, might be established to reward cities that best encourage innovation and wealth creation from science and technology, the prince's Working Group of Innovation suggests.

Robber jailed

An armed robber who stole more than £20,000 from 11 building societies, to pay off a gang attacking his home and family because he had informed on associates, was jailed for 12 years yesterday. Ronald Davies, aged 28, of West Norwood, south London, was arrested when he was stopped for a traffic offence and found to have a loaded handgun. He admitted the robberies.

Hands severed

Surgeons were trying to replace the hands of Sharon Jackson, aged 22, after they were severed just above the wrist as she operated a guillotine at a wallpaper factory in Lune Mills, Lancaster. The hands were placed in the ambulance which took her to a local hospital. She was transferred to a microsurgery unit at Withington Hospital, Manchester. Her condition was not known.

Princess visit

The Princess of Wales will make a one-day visit to Rome today to meet Mother Teresa. Buckingham Palace said yesterday. The princess had hoped to meet her during a visit to Calcutta last week but Mother Teresa, who had a heart attack while visiting Mexico in December, was recovering in a Rome clinic. She had been considered too ill to return to Calcutta to meet the princess.

AN APOLOGY

On Monday BskyB ran an advertisement which listed four MPs voted on last Friday's Bill to extend the Bill. It incorrectly stated that Terry Doherty MP and Andrew Bowden MP did not vote, in fact both voted in favour of the Bill. BskyB extend their apologies to both politicians for the typographical error and would like to thank them for supporting the Bill.

Who would fight for the right to pinch bottoms?

(Grope yourself please, Miss Ashcroft)

PUNCH

The most fun you can legally have for £1.20

BBC to launch 24-hour satellite TV news

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is to launch a 24-hour satellite news channel to compete with Sky News in Britain. Sir Michael Checkland, the corporation's director-general, announced yesterday. He said the decision to launch the corporation's first new channel since the introduction of BBC2 25 years ago, was the culmination of four years of investment in new and current affairs.

The new channel, paid for by subscription, would broadcast a mixture of home news from Television Centre and bulletins from BBC World Service Television, which has launched last autumn in 38 countries throughout Asia and was hoped to have a worldwide audience by 1993. "We will examine closely the

ways in which this service can be linked into a UK service," Sir Michael said. "It would be ironic if our viewers had to be in Baghdad or Vienna or Oman to receive 24-hour news from the BBC, but not receive it at home."

Sir Michael, who would not give a launch date for the British 24-hour channel, said the BBC might look for a partner to set it up. "World Service Television is the most significant thing in my time as director-general. I would like to see it firmly on the horizon before I leave. At low marginal cost we can develop these services in the UK during this decade."

Sir Michael also said that the BBC was working hard to supplement licence fee income with subscription revenue, which he predicted would show the most growth of any broad-

casting revenue during the Nineties, reaching as much as £2 billion a year. But the BBC would not consider subscription for its existing services.

Conservative and Labour MPs have protested that some television viewers will be denied a national pastime: watching England play in World Cup Cricket. An early day motion was tabled in the Commons last night by Labour MPs protesting at the decision by British Sky Broadcasting, which has exclusive rights to broadcast on Sky Sports, not to allow the BBC and ITV to broadcast more than one minute of cricket during each news bulletin.

The motion, tabled by Bruce Grocott, a Labour frontbencher spokesman and former television producer, said that the refusal would ensure that "the vast majority of

cricket lovers will be unable to view the series".

Sky outbid the BBC last August and has no legal obligation to provide rival broadcasters with longer highlights from the matches in Australia and New Zealand, starting this Friday.

Sir Neil MacFarlane, a former Tory sports minister, said: "I should have thought it was in Sky's interest to recognise the wider requirements of the cricketing fraternity in England."

Gary Davey, BskyB's deputy managing director, said: "We promised Sky subscribers the widest possible choice in sports and entertainment and that is a promise we intend to keep."

Child
snatching
cases
soaring*'He is delighted and I am on top of the world. There is no point in being angry or bitter'*

Man cleared of murder after 16 years in jail

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

STEFAN Kiszko, who spent 16 years in prison for the murder of a girl which he did not commit, was declared innocent by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, at the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

The news that his conviction for the killing of Lesley Molseed, aged 11, in October 1975 had been quashed was broken to him in hospital where he is undergoing treatment for schizophrenia brought on by his ordeal.

His mother, Charlotte

Kiszko, a widow aged 67, who campaigned to prove his innocence, said from her home in Rochdale, Lancashire: "He is delighted and I am on top of the world. There is no point in being angry or bitter. Mistakes happen. All that I am anxious for now is that Stefan comes home as soon as possible and that the real murderer be found."

Mr Kiszko, aged 39, was jailed for life by Leeds crown court in 1976 for stabbing the girl to death on moorland near Rochdale after she had disappeared while walking to a corner shop.

However, at the end of the appeal, Lord Lane declared the conviction "unsafe and unsatisfactory" after hearing scientific evidence that positively ruled him out as the killer.

Lesley's killer left semen on her clothing but four leading endocrinologists told the appeal court that Mr Kiszko was incapable of producing sperm found in the semen samples. The court was told that forensic science evidence exonerating him was available at the time of his trial and police are now investigating why that material was never shown to the defence.

The hunt for the girl's killer was relaunched yesterday by West Yorkshire police but it will be hampered by the unexplained disappearance of two slides containing specimens of semen taken from Lesley's clothing. The slides could have been matched against the DNA of the real killer. Genetic finger-printing techniques were not available at the time of Lesley's killing.

Police also face an enquiry by a senior officer from the

Lancashire force into the original investigation. Chief Supt Ken MacKay has been appointed to investigate the circumstances of Mr Kiszko's conviction.

Det Supt Trevor Wilkinson will re-open the murder enquiry. People with information are asked to ring police on 0800 212392. Det Supt Wilkinson carried out the preliminary enquiry ordered by Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, into submissions by Mr Kiszko's solicitors.

Mr Kiszko, a former Inland Revenue clerk from Rochdale, who is of Yugoslav extraction, was jailed by Mr Justice Park on July 21, 1976, and spent much of his imprisonment in solitary confinement. An appeal in 1978 was rejected.

He will remain under treatment at Prestwich hospital, Manchester, where he was bailed last December pending the hearing of this appeal, until doctors feel he is well enough to return to his mother's home. His condition is said to be improving.

Lord Lane, sitting with Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Potts, said that the original prosecution case against Mr Kiszko had been "very strong" including alleged confessions to police.

The judge made no reference to the disclosure during the appeal by Mr Kiszko's counsel that his client's "constitutional infertility" had been known by the police surgeon but that the defence had been totally unaware of it.

Mr Kiszko's stepfather, Fred Anderson, aged 61, said of Mr Kiszko: "Now I have been told he definitely did not do it, my heart goes out to the man."

Dick Holland, the former detective, who was in charge of the enquiry when Mr Kiszko was arrested, said: "Words can't express the regret I feel for the family and for Kiszko. But the enquiry



Wounds re-opened: Lesley Molseed's father Fred, her sister Julie and brother, also Fred, outside the Court of Appeal yesterday

Victim's family relives horror

JULIE CRABBE wept outside court yesterday as she described how, during the appeal, she had relived the nightmare of her sister Lesley's murder (Michael Horsnell writes).

She also expressed her sorrow at the false imprisonment of Stefan Kiszko.

Mrs Crabbe, aged 32, who broke down several times during the two-day hearing, said: "This appeal has opened up all the old wounds for us. It's brought back all the memories of Lesley. She was a beautiful girl. Now everything has got to be re-opened to try to find the real killer. I just hope that over the last 16 years he has not killed anyone else."

She said that she felt terrible about Mr Kiszko's imprisonment. "How could anyone feel about this innocent man who has spent 16 years in prison? At least his mum knows that he will come home. Our Lesley will never come home again."

Lesley's father, Fred Anderson, aged 61, said of Mr Kiszko: "Now I have been told he definitely did not do it, my heart goes out to the man."

Dick Holland, the former detective, who was in charge of the enquiry when Mr Kiszko was arrested, said: "Words can't express the regret I feel for the family and for Kiszko. But the enquiry

was done diligently and honestly within the terms that were legally and scientifically available at the time."

Campbell Malone, Mr Kiszko's solicitor, said that substantial compensation would be sought. He said: "He has been in prison for something he didn't do. He has lost the best part of his life, his career, future employment and promotion prospects. Obviously any compensation will be very substantial."

He said: "Stefan's case is a classic example of the way a miscarriage of justice can occur when a prosecution relies on a confession made in the absence of a solicitor, and of the need for defence solicitors to have facilities equal to those of the prosecution, including access to an independent forensic service."

Lesley's stepfather, Danny Molseed, said that he had volunteered to give a blood test to police after he was arrested and questioned last October. He claimed police had "played games" with him and driven him past the spot on the moors where Lesley's body was found. He had insisted on giving a blood test to prove his innocence. Mr Molseed said he was released on bail without charge and five months later was still waiting for the test results.

A football supporter who disguised himself in a gorilla suit and breached a court curfew to see Middlesbrough play ran out of luck when his team scored. He threw the gorilla head in the air and was spotted by a police officer who was watching the match at home on television.

The figures show rises of 18

per cent for rape to 1,160 cases and a 66 per cent rise for domestic violence incidents to more than 8,500.

Both increases are attributed in part to the increased work by police in these areas.

It is going up in areas of London which are having a tough time in terms of economic and social factors."

He said that the police had at the same time to fight fear of crime prompted by offences such as street robbery

where two thirds of those

arrested were under 21. Although street robbery may worry the elderly and women men are usually the victims.

A breakdown of the 23,700 offences last year shows that more than 60 per cent of victims were under 30, half were not injured, fewer than 1 per cent suffered serious injury and in 75 per cent of cases no weapons were involved.

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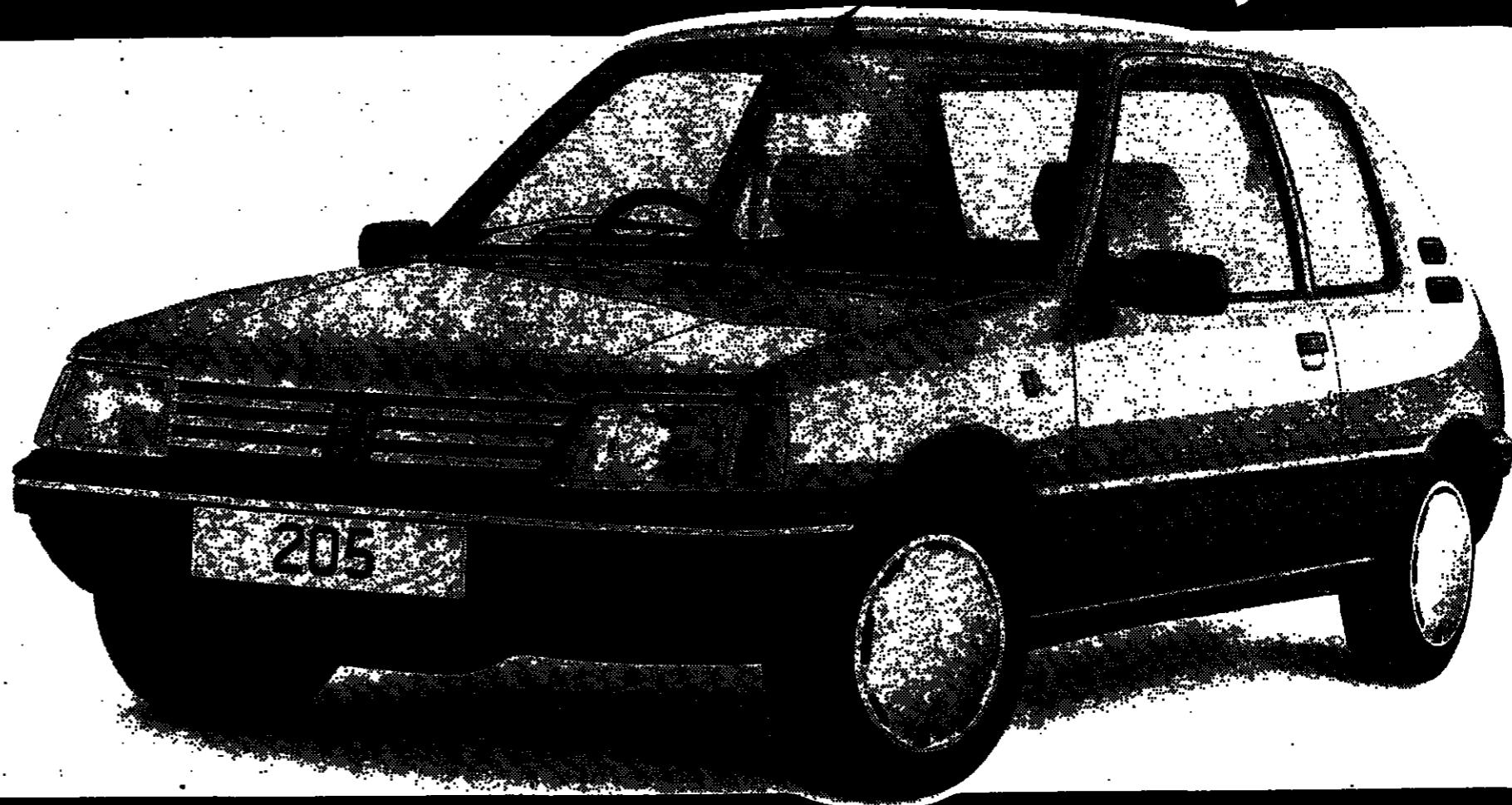
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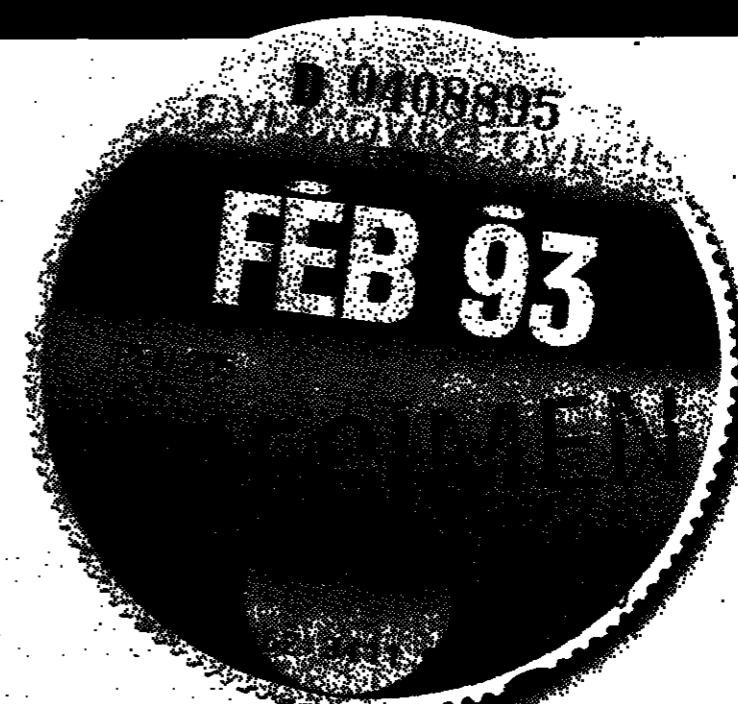
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10,000 shot in two days, court told

Slaughter of PoWs 'like conveyor belt'

BY KERRY GILL

A RETIRED farmer who served in a police battalion under German command during the second world war said yesterday that he saw Lithuanian and German officers standing with guns over a pit where a mass slaughter had taken place.

Edvardas Goga, aged 78, who was an NCO in the battalion when it took part in the murder of up to 10,000 Soviet prisoners of war and Bolshevik commissioners at a camp near Minsk, said that among the officers was Anton Gecas, a former junior officer in the 12th Lithuanian auxiliary police battalion.

Mr Goga, the third witness in the £500,000 defamation action being taken against Scottish Television by Mr Gecas, a naturalised Briton, told the Court of Session in Edinburgh that he did not see Mr Gecas, then a "tall, sports-like figure with a beautiful build", shooting anyone.

Mr Goga said that the two-day slaughter was "like a conveyor belt". His battalion was sent to the camp outside Minsk where they saw the "very frightening sight" of barracks surrounded by barbed wire fences. Inside they saw thousands of prisoners, mostly Soviet troops. "They looked hardly alive, they could hardly move... We were told there were 10,000 in the camp. The people in the camp were condemned to extermination, to be shot."

Mr Goga said he and his fellow soldiers formed a corridor from the camp to the pits about a kilometre away, down

which groups of about 120 prisoners at a time were driven to be shot. "It was our people and the Germans who took part in the shooting," he said.

Asked what Mr Gecas was doing during the shooting, Mr Goga said: "I was just in the guards' group and stood at a distance of 50 to 80 metres." He said that Mr Gecas was among the officers who had pistols in their hands but they had their backs to him. He added: "This operation went like a conveyor belt." He thought every prisoner was killed.

A film was then shown in which Mr Gecas defended himself against the allegations in front of Mr Tomlinson. In it he denied being a war criminal and denied having watched the murder of 150 people, assigning troops as hangmen or ordering the shooting of people in a ditch. Mr Gecas said that he was not involved personally in such atrocities and that the allegations, made up by the Soviet authorities, had had a terrible effect on his family. The case continues today.

The

people were herded towards a gravel pit and shot, most of them by Germans, although Lithuanian troops took part. He said that between 150 and 200 people were shot that day. He could not remember Mr Gecas being there.

Mr Goga, who later spent ten years in a Soviet camp, said he had seen the invading Germans as liberators from Soviet domination. Mr Goga, who was flown from Lithuania to give evidence, said that he served in the battalion as he believed it had been formed to keep public order. After he witnessed the atrocities, his request to

Tow-away fees refunded

Motorists whose cars were towed away illegally because of a mix-up over parking restrictions are to have their £85 reclamation fees refunded.

Police and private tow-away squads treated streets in Birmingham as no parking zones when they were pedestrianised last September. However, parking restrictions did not become valid until December 23 when they received approval from the transport department. Signs only went up after that date.

BP accused

Air BP, part of British Petroleum, and Morrison Biggs Hall, a building company, were committed for trial by Saffron Walden magistrates, Essex, over a 200,000 litre spillage of aviation fuel that killed fish and birds on the river Stort.

Car park bar

Plans to open a women-only multi-storey car park in Birmingham to reduce sex attacks have been dropped because of lack of demand.

Sheltered life

A tramp has damaged a Bronze Age burial mound near Ringwood, Hampshire, by digging a hole in the top and covering it with planks for a makeshift shelter.

RHS launches new show for gardeners

BY ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a new gardening show, the International Spring Gardening Fair, were unveiled yesterday by the Royal Horticultural Society and News International Exhibitions. The event will be held at the Wembley conference and exhibition centre, north-west London, over Easter next year.

The society's president, Robin Herbert, said at its annual meeting yesterday: "Our partnership with News International brings tremendous media power to bear on the project and the flexibility of the Wembley facilities allows us to produce a range of floral exhibits, gardening seminars, demonstrations and related events."

Simon Jenkins, the editor of *The Times*, and Andrew Neil, the editor of *The Sunday Times*, said in a joint statement: "Gardening is among the most popular of leisure pastimes, particularly among our readers. We are confident of a massive response from them."

The fair is intended to appeal to all levels of gar-

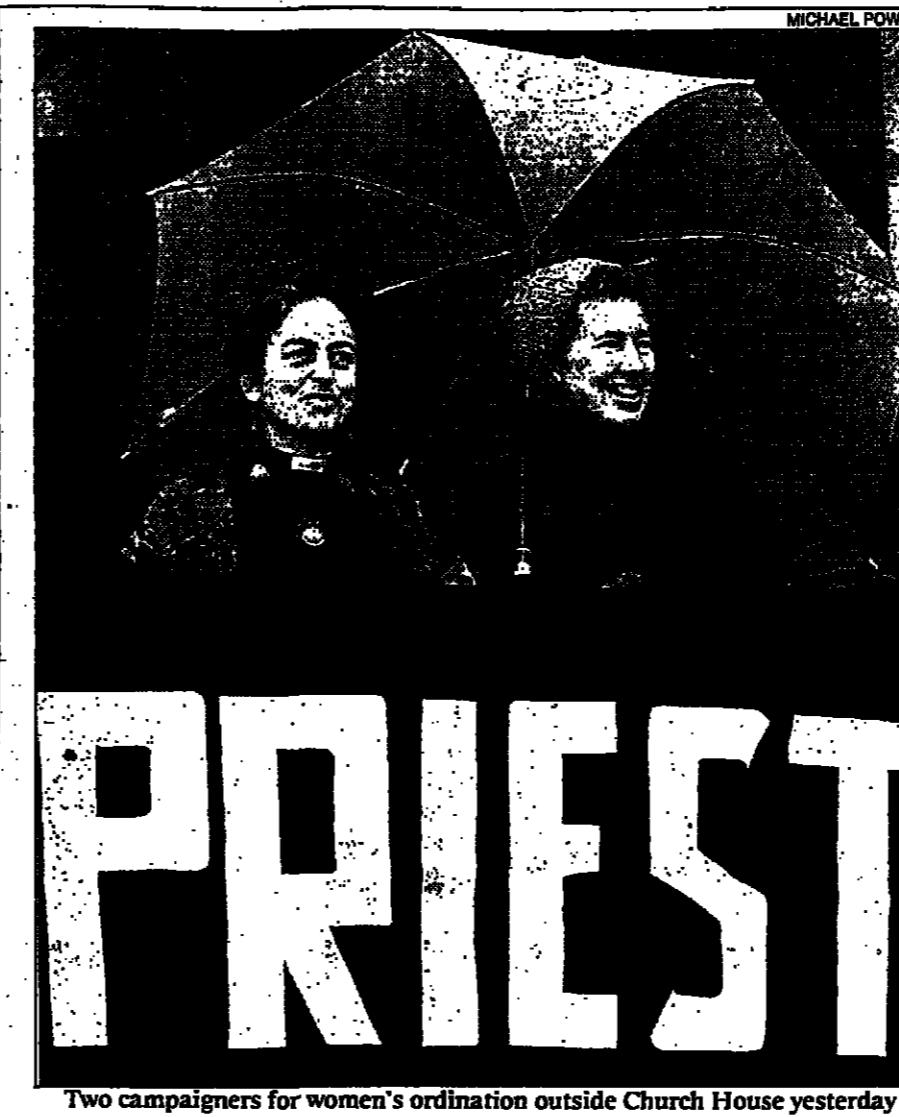
deners from the amateur to the experienced horticulturist. One of its features will be its indoor venue. Products for enjoying and maintaining the garden will be on show.

The society also announced at the meeting that Hyde Hall garden, near Chelmsford, Essex, has been given to it by the Hyde Hall Garden Trust. "Our intention is for the RHS to assume management of this garden in early 1993," Mr Herbert said.

Hyde Hall, developed over the past 35 years, includes a nursery, a collection of roses, heathers and the national collections of *Malus* and *Viburnum*. The society plans to develop the garden and neighbouring farmland to 50 acres or more to include an arboretum, woodlands and meadows, and to make a feature of East Anglian plants.

Hyde Hall will be the third garden owned by the society. Wisley, Surrey, was donated in 1903 and Rosemoor, Devon, in 1988.

RHS show, page 17



Dioceses favour women priests

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England is moving inexorably towards acceptance of women priests, the general synod meeting at Church House, Westminster, was told yesterday. Most bishops are in favour and support among clergy and laity is around the two thirds majority needed in the final synod vote in November.

David McClean, chairman of the synod's house of laity, said that 38 of the 44 dioceses approved the draft legislation to ordain women. Voting in the deaneries told the same story.

"Nearly 7,000 took part in diocesan synod voting and over 32,000 voted in the deaneries synod, so these figures carry real weight," Professor McClean said.

"The voting figures strongly suggest, therefore, that at various dates last year, more than two thirds of the members of our church wished the legislation to go ahead, but that amongst the ordained members the level of support was marginally below that level."

The synod has been de-

bating the issue since 1972, but yesterday's debate was the first by the present synod, elected in 1990. The synod voted overwhelmingly to take note of a report on the results of diocesan and deanery voting, although speeches from the floor showed divisions go as deep as ever.

The Rev Nigel Kinsella, from Lancashire, speaking for the one third of priests and laity still opposed to women priests, said: "What is overwhelmingly clear is that the opposition to this measure is not from the vociferous periphery of a deranged minority."

The Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev David Jenkins, was strongly applauded when he urged the church to move forward and release "endless energy" by ordaining women. "There is always God, and he will see us through this."

Heleen King, of Epsom, Surrey, said: "What these figures do add up to is very strong grass roots support for the ordination of women in the vast majority of dioceses and deaneries."

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NISSAN



Early bird councils set poll tax bills up by 15.6%

BY DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

POLL tax bills will rise in April by an average of almost four times the rate of inflation if councils throughout England follow the pattern set by the first 46 local authorities to declare figures for the coming financial year.

Surveys by *The Times* and the Labour party show that only half a dozen councils have so far managed to keep poll tax rises at or below the 4.1 per cent inflation rate, with some planning rises of almost 40 per cent.

Figures released by councils so far, roughly a tenth of the total, give an average increase of 15.6 per cent. Changes range from 38.6 percent rise for Conservative-run Ashford council, in Kent, to a 9.6 per cent decrease for Labour-run Oxford. Tory-run Hove plans a 37 per cent increase and Labour-run Brighton a 29.5 per cent rise. All the figures have been approved by finance committees, but require ratification at full council meetings.

Further large rises are likely when the mostly Labour London boroughs and metropolitan districts announce over the next fortnight their bills for the year starting in April.

The figures suggest that the government's chances of achieving its goal of an average poll tax of £257 are forlorn, with the average likely to be closer £300 than to the government target.

While the Conservatives are waiting for big increases in

London and the main cities to reinforce their "Labour costs you more" claim, Labour seize on the figure to try to embarrass the government.

Bryan Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, said that the average rise for Conservative councils and those with no one party in control was over 17 per cent while Labour councils rises averaged 6.5 per cent.

Mr Gould said the poll tax would harm the Tories at the general election. "The highest increases are in Tory and no overall-control councils, not the Labour councils that populate the imagination of Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary," he said.

The flaw in Labour's analysis is that in many councils with no single party in control, the Tories have had no hand in fixing next year's poll tax. The Conservatives came off worst in last May's municipal elections, and many former Tory councils are now run by alliances of Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

Mr Gould said that the rises might tempt the government to delay the sending of bills, due out at the end of March, shortly before the widely predicted election date of April 9. "I would warn them not to attempt that trick," he said. "Last year's decision to cut £140 off the poll tax delayed bills and cost local government £200 million. The public will not be fooled by a delaying tactic."



Bookworm's delight: Rachel Croft, of Book Aid, surrounded by thousands of books donated during National Book Aid week for the former Soviet republics. Two container loads will leave

for Moscow next week and a third will follow early next month (David Young writes). As fast as books are sorted and packed at the charity's warehouse at King's Cross central

London, more arrive. Organisers

estimate that the target of hav-

ing a million books sent by the

summer will be easily reached.

Ekaterina Genieva, deputy di-

rector of the M.I. Rudomino

State Library for Foreign Litera-

ture in Moscow, visited the ware-

house yesterday where volun-

teers were packing books. She

said that the response had been

incredible. "I have a staff of

eight in Moscow and we hope

that we can complete the dis-

ries, church libraries, kinder-

garten libraries and scientific

libraries by September."

| Council | Party | Current 1991-2 £ | New 1992-3 £ | Change % |
|-----------------|-------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Ashford | Con | 176 | 244 | 38.6 |
| Swale | NOC | 194 | 268 | 36.1 |
| Gillingham | NOC | 173 | 239 | 38.0 |
| Hove | Con | 197 | 270 | 37.0 |
| Sherwood | Con | 174 | 237 | 38.5 |
| Dover | NOC | 189 | 254 | 34.4 |
| Canterbury | NOC | 194 | 259 | 33.5 |
| Bournemouth | NOC | 208 | 274 | 31.7 |
| Brighton | Lab | 256 | 330 | 29.5 |
| Castle Point | Con | 215 | 273 | 28.9 |
| West Lindsey | NOC | 215 | 279 | 29.9 |
| Bridgnorth | Ind | 211 | 258 | 21.3 |
| Staffs Moorland | NOC | 237 | 285 | 20.2 |
| Pendle | Lab | 218 | 259 | 18.5 |
| S. Kesteven | NOC | 200 | 237 | 18.5 |
| Northampton | NOC | 225 | 267 | 18.1 |
| Lewes | SLD | 245 | 293 | 18.0 |
| Rother | NOC | 232 | 274 | 18.0 |
| N. Kesteven | NOC | 205 | 238 | 16.0 |
| N. Wiltshire | SLD | 238 | 277 | 15.9 |
| Chelmsford | Con | 223 | 256 | 15.0 |
| Southend | Con | 208 | 239 | 14.9 |
| North Norfolk | NOC | 185 | 212 | 14.6 |
| Broadland | Con | 228 | 265 | 13.6 |
| Wealden | Con | 246 | 279 | 13.4 |
| Chester | NOC | 309 | 349 | 12.9 |
| Taunton Deane | SLD | 240 | 270 | 12.5 |
| E. Dorset | Con | 245 | 272 | 11.0 |
| Fenland | Con | 242 | 271 | 10.3 |
| Melton | NOC | 211 | 231 | 8.5 |
| Derbyshire | Con | 226 | 245 | 8.5 |
| S. Norfolk | NOC | 230 | 250 | 8.7 |
| Norwich | Lab | 277 | 300 | 8.3 |
| Luton | Lab | 250 | 272 | 8.8 |
| Bury | Lab | 266 | 293 | 6.4 |
| Crawley | Lab | 235 | 250 | 6.4 |
| Forest Heath | NOC | 217 | 230 | 6.0 |
| Adur | SLD | 265 | 280 | 5.7 |
| Waveney | Lab | 252 | 267 | 4.7 |
| Cheltenham | Con | 259 | 270 | 4.0 |
| Cannock Chase | Lab | 269 | 279 | 3.7 |
| Southampton | Lab | 255 | 269 | 5.1 |
| Hammersmith | Lab | 247 | 250 | 1.2 |
| Wandsworth | Con | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Bracknell | Con | 229 | 214 | -8.5 |
| Oxford | Lab | 344 | 311 | -9.6 |

Sources: Times survey and Labour Party.

Defendant had chat with juror

A jury was discharged yesterday after the defendant, Violet Lewis, had a cup of tea with a juror and asked her to find her not guilty.

The juror passed a note to Judge Lewishohn at Dorchester crown court 15 minutes into the trial on shoplifting charges of Ms Lewis, aged 28, of Poole, Dorset. Before the trial, Ms Lewis had asked the juror if she would be on her case. When the juror said she did not know, Ms Lewis asked: "If you are, please find me not guilty, love."

Murder enquiry

Two French detective inspectors are in Britain investigating the murder of Malcolm Olson, who was found gagged and bound in an hotel room in Paris. The detectives began by interviewing staff at Southampton Eastleigh airport where Mr Olson, aged 34, of Hamble, Hampshire, had been director for nearly five years.

Diver hurt

A diver with the Royal Engineers was taken to hospital with hypothermia after his boat capsized off the Isle of Wight. Five others were unharmed. They had been inspecting Shanklin pier, damaged in the 1987 hurricane, with a view to demolition.

Bra shop preyed on cancer fear

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A LINGERIE shop has been rebuked by the Advertising Standards Authority for preying on fears of breast cancer in order to sell fitted bras.

A full-page newspaper advertisement for Lady Starlight Bra Specialists, which claimed that the underwiring in many unfitted bras could cause breast cancer, was "wholly unwarranted and irresponsible appeal to fear", the authority ruled.

Lady Starlight claimed that it had been researching bras for three years and had found evidence in Sweden that there was a link between underwiring and breast cancer. The advertisement, in the Hertfordshire freesheet *The Link*, said: "We believe that the Swedish government has issued a warning that wires could be detrimental to women's health... In the meantime, women are continuing to die of breast cancer."

When challenged by the authority, the St Albans shop failed to provide any scientific evidence for its assertion. The Imperial Cancer Research Fund dismissed claims of any link between underwired bras and breast cancer.

Media, L&T section, page 6



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Union militancy grows as German recession bites

ABOUT 350 quarry workers in the south Bavarian town of Titling have set a German record. They have not been boasting productivity by breaking more stones than ever before, however. They have been out on strike since June 17 last year, making this the longest industrial strike in Germany since the war.

Yesterday, there were traffic jams around one of the main river bridges in Frankfurt as 400 workers from the Olympia typewriter works in Wilhelmshaven took to the streets to protest outside their company's headquarters at plans to close the factory there at the end of this year.

This month, steelworkers in the Ruhr voted to stop work for the first time in a decade in support of a pay claim. The employers caved in without a fight. They said they preferred the "catastrophically high" 6.4 per cent settlement to the long dispute the men were threatening.

This growth of union militancy in post-unification Germany is clear evidence that the country is suffering from recession and the effects of inflation, now running at 4 per cent. Even though unemployment in the whole country is over three million, higher than at any time since the last days of the Weimar

republic, workers in industries as different as shoemaking and banking are pressing for pay settlements well above the 5 per cent level that the Bundesbank believes should be the limit for any settlement this year.

In its role as defender of the mark, the bank has let it be known that it will not consider lowering interest rates until the summer and that they might even have to rise again if average wage settlements are too high. The central bank remains supremely confident that it can and will control inflationary tendencies in this way and that it can build a secure dam against a worldwide recession flooding into the country.

There is little or no widespread feeling that Germany is suffering solely as a result of a world recession. Instead, unions and the opposition Social Democrats blame inflation on the way in which the government rushed the unification process with the consequent need to raise extra taxes to pay for develop-

ment of the East. This attack on the government, however, has failed to win many converts so far. Polls show that the government coalition is comfortably leading the Social Democrats by 10 per cent and that even on their own the Christian Democrats would win 4 per cent more of the vote than the opposition.

The reason, as the same polls indicate, is that the problem of absorbing foreign asylum-seekers is far more worrying for west Germans than is the plight of the economy or unemployment. The

Leading article, page 15
Current deficit, page 21

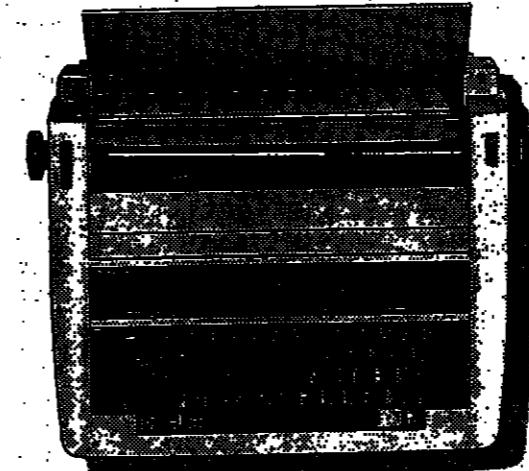


Judging role: Gérard Depardieu, the French actor, whom the organisers of the Cannes film festival have appointed to preside over the jury. The annual event takes place on May 7-18 (Our Foreign Staff writes). Depardieu, aged 43, was nominated for an Oscar for his title role in the film *Cyrano de Bergerac* last year. In 1986, he starred in Claude Berri's acclaimed *Jean de Florette*, opposite his wife Elisabeth. Depardieu teamed up with Berri again last year on *Uranus*. Most recently he has been starring as Christopher Columbus in Ridley Scott's newest epic.

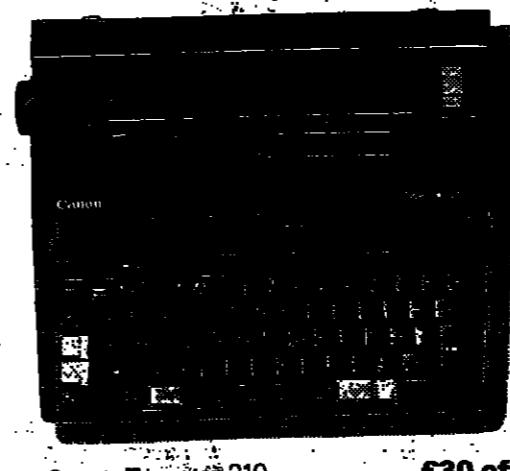
We'll give you £40 for your old banger.



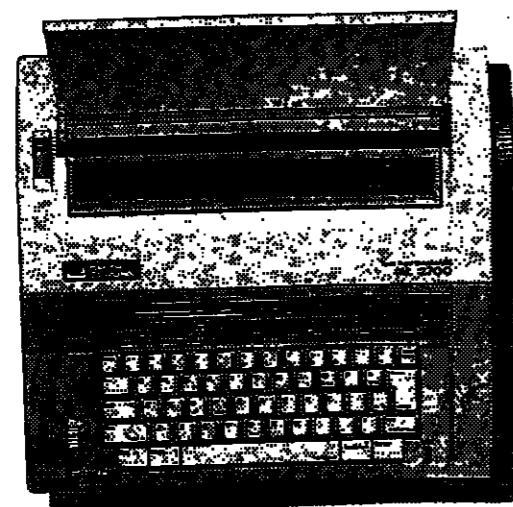
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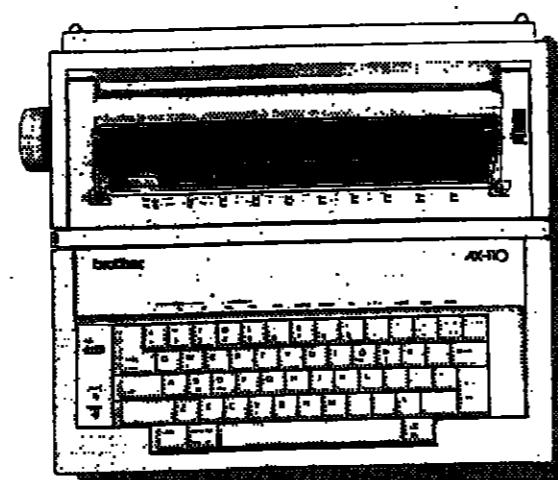
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New deal marries Tories to Europe

BY WALTER ELLIS

THIS week's announcement of a alliance between the Conservative party and the Christian Democrats in the European parliament, to take effect on May 1, is the first practical expression of John Major's wish to place the Isles "at the heart of Europe".

Immediate support for the change was announced in Lisbon by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. Eurosceptics at Westminster, aware of the possible implications for the government's stand on the development of the European Community, hold very different views. The Christian Democrats — known in Strasbourg as the European People's party — are constitutionally federalist and an motivating force behind the drive for political and monetary union against which Mr Major fought so hard at Maastricht.

The essence of their view of Europe is the Dublin declaration of party leaders and heads of government of April 13 last year. "The European People's party considers itself to be the force of the centre of Christian Democratic inspiration," the declaration affirms. "The development of the European Community into a federal political union represents for the EPP its foremost objective. In this context, the EPP will take an initiative to develop a European institution and a basic programme for a Europe of the Citizens."

Further, the resolution "welcomes the rapprochement which has brought the British Conservatives closer to the European and social policies of the EPP, confirming thus the strength and attractiveness of the EPP". Party leaders "note with much satisfaction that over the course of the last two years following intensive dialogue and constructive co-operation, the MEPs belonging to the European Democratic Group (the Tories, plus two Danes) accept not only the basic policies of the EPP Group but also the fundamental points of the EPP programme adopted in Luxembourg and the document of the Dublin Congress (on a federal constitution)."

Formal discussions between the Euro-Tories and their new allies have been going on since last April. There were difficulties over a definition of federalism, as well as on the nature of social policy, including the Social Charter on workers' rights put forward by Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission. These however, were resolved at a secret meeting last Friday, presided over by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and the likelihood now is that the resulting "community of groups" will lead eventually to full membership.

Charles Powell, page 14

Fire guts Expo '92 pavilion

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SEVILLE

A FIRE destroyed the second largest pavilion of the Expo '92 in Seville yesterday and organisers said they did not plan to rebuild it. The fire broke out as workers were putting the finishing touches to the building. No injuries were reported.

"My impression is that this pavilion is totally ruined," said Claudio Pellegrini, the chief executive of the universal exposition, said. "I won't deny this is a great setback, but there will be many other things for people to see."

Authorities said the fast-spreading fire was accidental and might have been due to sparks from a welding torch or soldering gun. Firemen had difficulty getting trucks through the streets of the 531-acre Expo site and workers had to rip away fences to allow passage of a ladder truck. A few hours after the fire began in the synthetic roof, the building was still burning, but the flames had been contained.

The building, called the discovery pavilion, was the largest of five Spanish "theme" pavilions and was made of metal, wood, plastic and paper. A fire on Friday in another Spanish exhibit, the pavilion of the future, destroyed a lift shaft.

Madrina too late, L&T section, page 12

Grey activists tap porn poll power

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

ITALIAN elections are normally thought of as dull and predictable. But in the next polls, in April, Italians will be able to choose from a colourful and varied circus of candidates.

There are hard-core porn stars, representatives of fishing and shooting movements, and old-age pensioners' groups, and even a "motorists' party". Several serious reform movements are threatening to undermine established parties.

The two largest parties, the Christian Democrats and the former Communists, who now call themselves the Democratic Party of the Left, are suffering identity crises and internal dissent, while the far right has gained ground, in the form of the neo-fascist party, the MSI, and racist, separatist groups such as the Lombardy League.

The most beautiful new face in Italian politics is that of Moana Pozzi, a voluptuous blonde from Bologna who is the undisputed queen of Italian eroticism. Her face, better known than that of the average cabinet minister, appears in hundreds of magazines and video cassettes. She is highly paid for TV talk shows on sex. Generally pitted against a feminist intellectual, she is articulate, intelligent, humorous, well-read, can



Pozzi: eroticism queen

did not usually wins the argument.

Silvana Pozzi is leading the Party of Love, which has several candidates, all of them porn stars or blue-movie entrepreneurs, with a vague platform of "human solidarity". They have formed a loose alliance with another maverick movement, the Pensioners' party, and could win up to 10 per cent of the vote, and perhaps ten seats. Also to be reckoned with is the "fishing, shooting, environment movement", a 45,000-strong party engaged to defend the right to shoot and fish, and the motorists' party, whose ideological foundation is the improvement of traffic conditions.

Moscow loses hope of saving army

Baker inches closer to missile accord

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

AMERICA and Russia agreed yesterday to consider joint systems for averting nuclear attack, but they failed to agree on the desired maximum size of long-range nuclear arsenals.

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, said that the views of the two sides on long-range rockets were getting steadily closer, and they pledged that negotiations would be speeded up. After a two-day visit to Moscow by Mr Baker, the ministers said they hoped a broad package

of landmark accords on disarmament and areas such as economic co-operation would be ready for signing when President Yeltsin visits President Bush in July.

Both sides emphasised that the "new spirit" in their relations was undimmed despite the relative lack of concrete progress. Washington remains committed, however, to its proposal for a 4,500 limit on long-range nuclear warhead stocks, while Russia wants a ceiling of 2,500 heads. Mr Baker said negotiations on these issues "made some progress... but did not

resolve all the issues that are at stake".

In another sign that the American administration is trying to dampen Russia's new-found zeal for disarmament and co-operation, Mr Baker commented cautiously on the prospects for joint systems to detect and even counter nuclear strikes. Referring to Mr Yeltsin's proposal that the Cold War adversaries should co-operate over anti-missile defences, he said: "We agreed that we would talk about the possibility of sharing technology in this area, and we agreed that in consultation with our allies we would talk about the possibility of a ballistic missile early-warning centre."

The reference to allies suggested that European members of Nato, and Russia's partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States, would have access to data from the proposed early-warning system. While Mr Kozyrev urged rapid progress to turn the new relationship into an alliance, the American side focused more on the need to decommission nuclear weapons in an increasingly chaotic Russia and its own eagerness to help.

The Russian foreign minister said joint groups of American and Russian experts would soon be established to oversee the destruction of nuclear arms and the storage of nuclear equipment released during this process.

Lithuania would then seek Nato help, requiring the dispatch of a rapid deployment force and more than seven American combat divisions and other units. Extending that scenario, the Pentagon sees the possibility that by 2001, the Regt could have evolved into an aggressive strategic threat to America around the globe, requiring a full defence build-up in response.

The other projected wars involving American troops include an invasion of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia by a revived Iraq, a North Korean attack on South Korea, simultaneous assaults by Iraq and North Korea, coups affecting US citizens or vital interests in Panama and the Philippines. The supposed US assault on a hostile Philippines sparked private indignation in Manila yesterday.

The Pentagon plan is likely to be presented as a response to requests to Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, from the armed services committees of the Senate and House of Representatives to explain why he believes US forces should be maintained at 1.6 million, only a reduction of 25 per cent, despite the end of the Cold War.

The New York Times said it had received the plan from a Pentagon official who wanted to expose "vigorous attempts within the military establishment to invent a menu of alarming war scenarios".

UN force plans long stay

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

BOUTROS Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, wants a peacekeeping force in Croatia to remain there until a political settlement is reached, even if the Croatian government asks it to withdraw.

His proposal, in a report to the security council, is aimed at stopping the breakaway republic from wrecking the peacekeeping plan by ordering the "blue berets" off its territory and asserting sovereignty over the three Serb enclaves that the UN force is to protect.

In his report, Dr Boutros Ghali recommended that the force be sent for a minimum of 12 months, during which it could not be withdrawn without a specific decision of the security council. After the first year, Croatia would be free to expel the peacekeepers unless a new security council resolution were passed.

Diplomats said the 15-nation council, which must approve all UN peacekeeping operations, would almost certainly endorse the proposal later this week or early next week, thus breaking with its normal practice of deploying peacekeeping troops only with the consent of all sides in a conflict.

Dr Boutros Ghali also proposed that the so-called UN



Protection Force (Unprofor) will be 10,400 combat troops supplemented by 2,840 support troops, including a contingent from Britain, 100 military observers and 530 civilian police. The entire force of nearly 14,000 men, the largest since 20,000 peacekeepers were sent to the Congo in 1960, would be equipped with four aircraft and 26 helicopters at an annual cost unofficially estimated at \$400 million (£226 million).

The force will be deployed within weeks to police the Serb enclaves of Krajina and eastern and western Slavonia as well as border areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Local militias in these pro-

Letters, page 15



Sly humour: Sylvester Stallone with Oprah Winfrey in a recording of her talk show in which he introduces model Jennifer Flavin, his girlfriend, gives a tour of his Malibu beach home, and exhibits some of his art

Gone fishing for friends in Central Asia

FROM CAROL GIACOMO IN TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

WHEN James Baker, the American Secretary of State, visited the Central Asian republics before his present talks in Moscow, it was not all work. Quite out of character, he set business aside and tasted some local culture.

Mr Baker is working to develop ties with the former Soviet republics, including Muslim Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Marshall Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, the military commander of the Commonwealth, predicted yesterday that the forces would eventually break up into separate national armies. He also spoke of a serious dispute with Ukraine over a fleet of nuclear bombers and other military aircraft.

At the same time Sergei Shakhray, a senior aide to President Yeltsin, served warning that the collapse of the Commonwealth would lead to a coup. Mr Shakhray told the Russian parliament that there was "a 103 per cent chance" of a military coup if the Commonwealth of Independent States disintegrated.

By contrast, the marshal, who has hitherto sought to put a brave face on the former Soviet republics' efforts to shore up their military relations, admitted to reporters: "I think that the army will in the end split up into national divisions."

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Submarines collide, page 1



Shaposhnikov: sees forces breaking up



Most people have little or no idea that every day nuclear power provides 15 million homes with electricity and saves the emission of 135,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, and that at the last count 180,000 people depended on it for employment.

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Rouble loses Lenin

MOSCOW: Lenin's picture is to be removed from the rouble, the Russian Central Bank said, but no decision has been made on his successor. At present, his portrait appears on all denominations higher than the ten-rouble note.

Statues of Lenin were toppled throughout the Soviet Union after the August coup and his name has been stripped from schools and streets and even from Russia's largest library. (AP)

Ceausescu freed

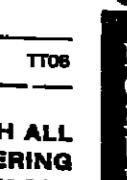
Bucharest: Nicolae Andruita Ceausescu, brother of the late Communist dictator of Romania and former head of the secret police academy, has been released from prison temporarily because of serious illness. He was jailed for 20 years in 1990. (AP)

Portugal strike

Lisbon: Up to 500,000 public sector workers in Portugal went on strike in protest at the government's 8 per cent pay award. Many teachers and hospital staff stayed at home, public transport was disrupted in Lisbon and some flights were cancelled. (Reuters)

Nuclear tomb

Paris: French firms have offered to buy the damaged Chernobyl nuclear reactor in a new aluminium-based "super-cement" guaranteed to prevent radioactive leaks for a century. The offer was made after an inspection by French experts. (Reuters)



The race for the White House: 250,000 voters go to New Hampshire primary polls

Battered Bush still looks out of touch

MARTIN FLETCHER IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

MORE than a quarter of a million New Hampshire voters went to the polls yesterday after an extraordinary first primary that turned conventional wisdoms inside out and promises to influence America's 1992 presidential election profoundly.

George Bush, seemingly unassailable just a few months ago, was pounded by an inspired, home-made conservative challenge from Patrick Buchanan that in ten weeks left the president looking directionless, unprincipled and out of touch with his country's acute economic distress. He is being pulled to the right to keep his party united. The White House re-election team looked inept.

The Democrats, with their best chance of recapturing the White House since 1976, had hoped for a decisive primary that would unite the party rapidly behind one strong candidate. Instead,

Bill Clinton was wounded, perhaps fatally, by charges of draft-dodging and adultery.

The "unelectable" Paul Tsongas, with neither money nor charisma but a single resonant theme, came from nowhere. But, far from uniting the party, a Tsongas victory could lead to turmoil, with bigger-name Democrats jumping belatedly into the race for what some term the most valuable nomination since Watergate.

The primary has also exposed a sea change in the public mood since 1988, when the voters' focus was on little more than the rising values of their homes. This year substance and policy are in, 30-second soundbites out.

The electorate has grown deeply sceptical of politicians' promises. If he achieves nothing else, Mr Buchanan has demonstrated that America is at last warming to economic responsibility, but it is also a

country that is turning inward. Beyond populist denunciations of Japanese protectionism, foreign issues have barely registered.

With so much at stake in this traditional arbiter of politicians' futures, the candidates have stopped at nothing in the past few days to maximise their support. Bob Kerrey's campaign even offered a baby-sitting service yesterday so that mothers could vote.

Mr Bush spent Monday appealing for support via satellite links with local television and radio stations.

"Don't worry about trying to send a message," he implored, acknowledging that he had been left in no doubt about the voters' anger. Final polls showed his support slipping below 60 per cent and Mr Buchanan promised "a wake-up call the White House will never forget".

Mr Tsongas, anticipating victory, sought to pre-empt new entrants by rejecting the idea that he has no appeal outside his native New England. A powerful idea transcended regional considerations, said the former senator. He hopes for a second victory in next week's caucuses in Maine and he will then concentrate his efforts on Maryland, Georgia and Colorado.

But even as he spoke, party leaders in Washington appeared to encourage the idea of new entrants. "A lot depends on what happens in New Hampshire," Tom Foley, the House Speaker, said. "Democracy is best served by competition." George Mitchell, the Senate majority leader, said. Richard Gephardt, the House leader, and Lloyd Bentsen, the Texas senator, are being pressed to stand. Mario Cuomo, New York's governor, was watching the result of yesterday's "Draft Cuomo" write-in effort in New Hampshire.

All camps were playing the expectations game furiously, knowing very well that winners can end looking like losers and vice-versa.

Village votes, page 1



Shaken and stirred: the first lady, Barbara Bush, being greeted at Concord airport, New Hampshire, yesterday, as she arrived to give last-minute support to her husband's re-election campaign

Platforms of the main candidates



• **GEORGE BUSH** (Republican) is trying to persuade voters that he is concerned, that he is the steady, experienced hand they need, that he has remained true to conservative tenets. He described his recent Japan trip as a job-seeking mission and laid out a modest health plan centered on vouchers and tax breaks to help lower and middle-income families.

• **PAT BUCHANAN** (Republican), running a noisy "America First" campaign, claims that he is the only true conservative in the Republican race. He accuses Bush of too much compromise with Congress and too much concern for international affairs. He says he would phase out foreign aid and crack down on uncooperative trading partners.

• **PAUL TSONGAS** (Democrat) revels in his image as a tough economic realist prepared to give the country a dose of painful medicine — like the bone-marrow transplant that enabled him to survive cancer. A social liberal, the former Massachusetts senator also supports nuclear power. He opposes a middle-class tax cut backed by his party.

• **BILL CLINTON** (Democrat) presents himself as the stump, detailed economic plan and perceived capacity to win a presidential election pushed him to the top of the field — small the dirt and infidelity issues hit his campaign.

Punjab poll and new march in Kashmir strain security

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN AMRITSAR AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF



AS DELHI deployed a huge armed force to monitor Punjab's first elections in seven years, the Indian government was faced with a fresh security threat in Kashmir when a leading militant announced a huge march across the line dividing Indian and Pakistani-held Kashmir.

"I will be leading hundreds of thousands of people from Srinagar to the other side," Javed Ahmed Mir, the military commander of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, told a clandestine news conference. He said the plan was to meet a similar march from the Pakistani-held part of Kashmir on March 30 led by Amanullah Khan, the front leader, whose first attempt to cross the dividing line was stopped by Pakistani police last week.

The Press Trust of India yesterday quoted Sharad Pawar, the defence minister, as saying that India would welcome Mr Khan, because he was wanted on several murder charges. "He is wanted here in half a dozen cases of murder," Mr Pawar said.

The Punjab polls have turned into something of a farce, with all but one small faction of the traditional Sikh party, Akali Dal, boycotting the official figures.

The election. Voter turnout will be shot. Notices have gone up in some gurdwaras (Sikh temples) saying that anybody participating in the poll faces excommunication. The number of candidates standing is the lowest ever, since they all face death threats.

The Congress will probably gain the largest share of seats in the 117-member state assembly. But it will face unaccustomed challenges from both the BJP and other Hindu-backed parties, which will probably deny it an outright majority, resulting in a frail coalition.

Thirteen parliamentary seats for the Lok Sabha (lower house) are also at stake. The outcome will be particularly important for Congress, which is 15 or 16 votes short of a majority in the lower house. It hopes to capture eight or nine of the seats, strengthening its position as it approaches the crucial budget session of parliament. The party opposed plans for elections in the state last June, saying terrorism made a free and fair poll impossible.

Many observers believe it is participating this time simply for the chance to bolster its parliamentary position.

Canadian tribes shift status goal

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

CANADIAN government and native Indian leaders have defused a dispute that threatened to stop the country's advance towards a constitutional settlement.

Last week, Ovide Mercredi, the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, demanded that Canada's population of almost one million Indians be officially recognized as a "distinct society" — the same status that French-speaking Quebec has been demanding.

Joe Clark, the constitutional affairs minister who has been masterminding the effort to off Quebec's secession and save Canada from dismemberment, was clearly angered by Chief Mercredi's intervention. He denounced the action as "dangerous" and said that if the native leader persisted, he would be jeopardising the Indians' claim to the right of aboriginal self-government.

Chief Mercredi, who frequently attends constitutional meetings in full Indian regalia, backed down. He said after a meeting with Mr Clark that it may be possible to achieve native goals by "other means" than distinct society status. He apparently was referring to a national

conference on native issues that Mr Clark agreed to organize.

The conference could be a stormy one, however. Arguments are certain to arise over the practical meaning of the notion of aboriginal self-government and how much real power the Indians will have.

The last in a planned series of five regional conferences on the constitution took place at the weekend in Vancouver. These highly unstructured conferences have been designed to give ordinary Canadians as well as politicians the chance to voice what kind of country they would like to see emerge. There was a surprising degree of unanimity in favour of accepting Quebec's demand to be recognised as a distinct society within Canada. Previous attempts to forge a national consensus had come to grief over the issue, frustrating any chance of healing the ten-year-old constitutional rift between Quebec and English Canada.

Broad understanding was also reached on aboriginal self-government on the need for reforming the Senate, and the need for some realignment of powers between the federal government and the ten provinces.

Fleet attraction

Wellington: An American naval fleet deliberately sunk in the lagoon of Bikini atoll during atomic tests in 1946 could become a tourist attraction. The Pacific Marshall Islands are considering developing diving tourism, an archaeologist said. (AFP)

Up in the air

Amsterdam: The Dutch aircraft maker, Fokker, has declined to confirm or deny reports that it will deliver up to three Fokker 50s to Taiwan, citing confidentiality, but it denied reports that the planes might be used for military purposes. (Reuters)

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Black cheers and white insults spice last-act poll

South Africa's final all-white election will underline Afrikaner feeling about a constitutional referendum, writes Gavin Bell from Potchefstroom

reforms in a promised referendum. In itself, the Potchefstroom poll is of little significance, since the days of the white-dominated parliament are numbered. However both the ruling National party and the far-right Conservative party regard it as a test of white opinion which will have a crucial bearing on the referendum process.

Victory for the Nationalists will reassure them of support for sharing power with the black majority. If

the Conservatives win, they will claim the government has no mandate for reform and will demand a return to apartheid.

The seat fell vacant last year with the death of Louis le Grange, the Speaker of parliament, who held it for the Nationalists for a quarter of a century. An urban constituency, Potchefstroom has a classic Afrikaner profile of soldiers, academics, students, factory workers and miners. Mr le Grange increased

his majority in 1989 to 1,538, but a survey of special early voting indicates the result will be close. Symbolism and sentiment have brought the heavy artillery of the National party to bear on the campaign, with no fewer than 10 cabinet members making personal appearances along with Mr de Klerk. The town's university is the alma mater of both the president and the Nationalist candidate, Theuns Kruger, a local estate agent.

Ferdie Hartzenburg, the Conservative deputy leader, has been firing emotive broadsides in support of Andries Beyers, the party's candidate and national secretary. "You have to choose between nationalism, freedom and self-determination, and an irresponsible government led by the African National Congress and the Communist party," he told a rally this week.

Mr Kruger says he is confident of holding the constituency. "This will show that the Afrikaner is prepared to move fearlessly into the future. My appeal to voters is to prove this convincingly."

By-elections generally favour the opposition, and what may prove to be South Africa's last all-white election could not have come at a worse time for the government. A severe drought, recession, soaring crime, and constitutional uncertainty all count against it. An incipient civil war between

Japanese statesman linked to scandal

London: Yasuhiro Nakasone is the second former Japanese prime minister to be named in connection with a transport firm under investigation for channelling funds to politicians (David Watts writes).

Mainichi Shimbun, a leading Tokyo daily, alleged that Mr Nakasone's think-tank, the International Institute for Global Peace, had received the equivalent of £2.16 million (500 million yen) from the Sagawa Kyubin group. Zenko Suzuki, the former prime minister, has agreed to give testimony on his links to the company.

Algeria party offers talks

Algiers: The main fundamentalist party here, the Islamic Salvation Front, has offered to talk to Algeria's military-backed authorities (Alfred Hermida writes). The offer marks a climbdown by the party, which has consistently refused to recognise the regime since it seized power last month and cancelled planned elections.

In the past, the front has accused the authorities of "political piracy", but in a statement released yesterday it said that it was ready for dialogue if the authorities "respect the people's choice".

Party choice

Dar es Salaam: A special congress of Tansania's ruling Revolutionary party endorsed a switch to multiparty system yesterday ending three decades of one-party socialism. A formal vote is expected to allow opposition parties by April. (Reuters)

'Pilot' bizarre

Rome: A papal spokesman described as "bizarre" a Time magazine report that the Pope and President Reagan agreed to a secret campaign to hasten the end of communist Eastern Europe. However, the Pope was a known champion of Solidarity. (AP)

Tyson petition

Indianapolis: A group of pastors from the Missionary Baptist Ministers' Alliance said that it had gathered 10,000 signatures on a petition seeking a suspended sentence for Mike Tyson, the heavyweight boxer, for his conviction. (AP)

Abidjan arrest

Abidjan: Laurent Gbagbo, the Ivory Coast's main opposition leader, who heads the Ivorian Popular Front, was among those arrested after an anti-government protest here turned into a riot. Demonstrators damaged shops and vehicles. (Reuters)

Weapons plea

Delta: Kuwait has asked India to help rebuild its defence forces in an attempt to cut dependence on Western powers. The Pioneer newspaper said Kuwait had asked about the purchase of tanks, missiles, artillery and personnel equipment. (AFP)

Fleet attraction

Wellington: An American naval fleet deliberately sunk in the lagoon of Bikini atoll during atomic tests in 1946 could become a tourist attraction. The Pacific Marshall Islands are considering developing diving tourism, an archaeologist said. (AFP)

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Pilot
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Weapons

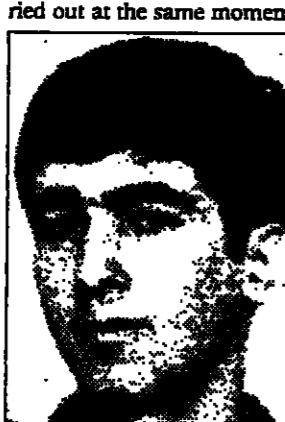
Jefferson

Fate of Israeli airman Arad 'killed as Moussawi is buried'

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

AS HEBBOLAH was announcing the election of another hardliner to succeed Sheikh Abbas Moussawi, its assassinated secretary-general, it was reported in Beirut that Ron Arad, the Israeli air force navigator, had been killed by his Muslim fundamentalist captors after six years' captivity in Lebanon.

An anonymous caller on behalf of "the Cells to Defend the Oppressed and Disinherited in the World" said that Arad was killed in vengeance for the blood of "the master of martyrs". Sheikh Moussawi was killed with his wife and son, aged six, when an Israeli helicopter attacked his motorcade in southern Lebanon on Sunday. The caller told the radio the "execution" was carried out at the same moment.



Arad: held since 1986

Jordan to vote on going dry

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN CAIRO

THE Jordanian parliament casts a crucial vote today to decide whether to impose a total ban on the sale, purchase, distribution, import and manufacture of alcohol.

The campaign to turn the Hashemite kingdom dry — deeply resented by King Husain — is the most dramatic attempt by Muslim fundamentalists to transform the traditionally tolerant country into one run along Iranian-style Islamic lines.

Political observers here said the outcome of the vote was uncertain as fundamentalists formed the largest single bloc in the 80-seat lower house of parliament, but they did not, without securing allies, have the overall majority necessary.

After securing sweeping gains in the 1989 general election, one of the first staged in the Arab world, the fundamentalists succeeded last year in forcing a ban on alcohol at all official ceremonies. The two bills proposing the across-the-board ban have already won a 13-2 majority in the legal committee.

Fares Nablusi, one of the only two MPs who oppose the move, said: "This is a violation of the rights of privacy of individuals in the country."

Palestinians decide, page 1

Frenzied fans put block on the Kids

The American rock group, New Kids on the Block, left Seoul yesterday after a concert had their teenage fans in an uproar and their elders steaming. Screaming, frenzied fans mobbed the group throughout their visit: about 50 were hurt when fans stormed the stage during the concert. The performance had to be interrupted for three-and-a-half hours.

□

Benjamin Rubin, aged 74, who snipped the top off a common sewing needle to create the forked vaccination needle that helped to eradicate smallpox, is to join Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell at the American national inventors' hall of fame.

□

Vanilla Ice's film, *Cool As Ice*, scooped seven Golden Raspberry Awards nominations and Sean Young got two for playing twins badly as Hollywood prepared to announce the worst of 1991. Young was nominated as worst actress in *Kiss Before Dying* as the twin who survives and as worst supporting actress as the twin killed in the first reel.

Bruce Willis' *Hudson Hawk* and Dan Aykroyd's *Nothing But Trouble* re-

ceived six nominations for the Oscar-spoofing Razzie trophy, a gold-painted raspberry valued at £1.

Competing with Young for the worst actress award are Madonna, for *Truth or Dare*, Kim Basinger for *The Morning Man*, Sally Field for *Not Without My Daughter*, and Demi Moore for *The Butcher's Wife* and *Nothing But Trouble*.

□

Benny Hill has been ordered by doctors to lose almost two stone. Leaving the Cromwell hospital in London after a minor heart attack, the comedian patted his large stomach and said: "The main advice is to get rid of that."

□

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Guyana, Britain's only former colony in South America, next month. He will visit a huge wildlife preserve in his capacity as international president of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

□

John Anthony Peple, a British-born professor at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh and a renowned student of molecular structure theory, has won this year's \$100,000 (£56,000) Wolf chemistry prize.

Tripoli parades Pan Am suspects

BY JOHN PHILLIPS
IN TRIPOLI
AND DAVID WATTS

TWO Libyans accused of the Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie in December 1988 were shown to the world's press yesterday in apparent good health — despite reports of their deaths — as the judge leading Tripoli's investigation defiantly excluded their extradition to the United States or Britain.

The British government promptly renewed its demand that Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah be extradited, and rejected the judge's contention that he had not been presented with sufficient evidence on which to act. Egypt last night also called for the two men to be put on trial.

The two men were hustled into the sandstone Supreme Court on the seafront at the Libyan capital flanked by guards carrying automatic rifles. Judge Ahmad al-Tahir al-Zawi, who is heading Lib-



ya's investigation of the bombing of Flight 103, asked them if they had anything to say. Mr Bassel replied in English: "Just to say we are not guilty." Stephen Mitchell, a British solicitor defending Mr al-Megrahi and Mr Fhimah, patted them both on the shoulder reassuringly at the end of the photo opportunity and were escorted out of the court room. A Libyan information ministry official said: "They want to show they have not been killed." Judge al-Zawi said he had not received a reply to requests to the Scottish Lord Advocate and a state prosecutor in Colombia, New York, for official documents detailing evidence that the Libyans caused the 270 deaths. The Foreign Office said last night that the Libyans had been given detailed warrants and specifics of the charges consistent with those which would be presented to a country with which Britain had an extradition treaty.

Their passports had been confiscated. But they have not been charged under Libyan law. The judge said only a political decision could lead to them handed over to America or Britain since Libya has no extradition treaty with London or Washington.

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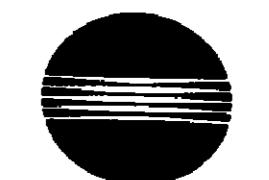
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Royalty on trial

The Queen faces a republican backlash, says Alan Hamilton

Australians cheered their head of state when she arrived in Sydney with the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday on a seven-day visit. As Malcolm Turnbull, lawyer in the *Spycatcher* case and a leading light in his nation's recently reactivated republican movement, observed on the radio: "Australians cheer when Madonna turns up, but it doesn't mean they want her as their queen."

All Australians, it is said, are republicans when drunk, which should promise fertile ground for the antipodean anti-monarchist movement. It is highly improbable that there was any love lost between the original settlers and King George III, given that he was ultimately responsible for their unwanted assisted passage to Botany Bay.

Nor is there much logic in a nation with such a strong identity of its own, whose economic orbit is no longer the Empire but the Pacific rim, retaining as its titular figurehead a pominous grannie who has managed 12 visits during her 40-year reign and still lives most of her life on the other side of the world. A group of Australian intellectuals led by the author Thomas Keneally is agitating for the severing of the last apron-string, with the aim of achieving a republic by 2001, the centenary of the creation of the Commonwealth out of Australia's previously independent colonial states.

Monarchy v republicanism is not, however, a major item on the Australian political agenda. What exercises the Australian mind first and foremost are the perennial and burning matters of beer and beach, followed at some remove by the parous state of the national economy. They have, in some ways, a healthier attitude to the monarch than we do, with our media's obsession with her family.

Questions about the Queen's Australian future are raised partly by considerable demographic change in the country, as British immigration has given way to an influx from southern Europe and Asia. But Anglo-Celtic are still in a majority, and the most recent opinion polls suggest that the pro-monarchs still have the upper hand, although by a shrinking margin.

Anyone wishing to become a full Australian citizen still has to swear allegiance to Elizabeth II. Those residents of Irish descent who would rather die than kowtow to the British crown appear, on anecdotal evidence at least, to be balanced by a number of Chinese immigrants who consider her rather a good idea.

The monarchy is the last link between the two countries. Britain has even grudgingly agreed to let Australia keep the original document of the 1901 Commonwealth Act, which was lent for a temporary exhibition. Since the demise of that ardent pro-monarchist and sometime eccentric premier of Queensland, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, Australia no longer even nominates its great and good for the new year and birthday honours lists.

The Queen's record of hanging on to her monarchies is, however, excellent. Of the 16 Commonwealth nations (apart from the UK) which on breaking the colonial shackles chose to keep her as head of state, only Fiji has since cast her adrift, and that because of internal politics in which she had no part.

Monarchy's strongest appeal, certainly in this country, is among the lower-middle and working classes rather than the intellectuals. The Queen seems secure in Australia yet while, it is, after all, a nation almost entirely of suburbs, with a mentality happy enough to let the monarchist-republican argument drift for the time being. Dame Edna is a caricature, not an out-and-out lie.

Conor Cruise O'Brien on why a rapist walks free while his victim is prevented from having an abortion

Ireland's cruel hypocrisy

Horror and shame at the monstrosity of a 14-year-old girl, pregnant as a result of rape, being prevented from leaving the country for an abortion is sweeping the Republic of Ireland.

You may well ask why so? Was it not the people of the Republic who voted in the 1983 abortion referendum which resulted in Article 8 of the constitution? It was indeed. With 53.7 per cent of the electorate voting, two thirds voted in favour of the anti-abortion amendment.

The amended Article reads: "The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and as far as practicable by its laws to defend and vindicate that right."

During the public debate which preceded the referendum, opponents of the amendment, such as myself, argued that it could result in pregnancy tests at ports and airports and the turning back of the pregnant. This was denied by the amendment's sponsors in a widely-circulated leaflet. But this week the Article

has been interpreted and executed in just such a manner.

It is worth considering first the political context which gave us the fatal Amendment, and the political context that is necessary to get us – and especially that girl – out of its clutches. The early 1980s was a time of particularly intense and close competition between Charles Haughey and Garret Fitzgerald.

Dr Fitzgerald was then engaged on what he called a "constitutional crusade" for liberalisation, which in practice meant taking the prohibition on divorce out of the constitution. Mr Haughey opposed that, and then went one better by proposing the insertion of the prohibition of abortion into the constitution. Dr Fitzgerald backed away, presumably believing that it would be politically suicidal to oppose the Catholic Church simultaneously on both divorce and abortion.

Thus both parties, together with

the Church, became committed to the amendment, and so its ratification became inevitable.

Probably none of the politicians who took this up and none of those who voted for it envisaged the present outcome. Although abortion – unlike contraception – had been illegal under laws inherited from the United Kingdom since the foundation of the Irish State, the laws as they existed until 1983 had never been interpreted in such a way as to prevent pregnant women going to Liverpool to get an abortion.

The referendum was – for all but a small minority – an exercise in hypocrisy. Abortion would be made totally illegal, but could still be obtained, when necessary, out of sight, in Britain. This week that loophole was blocked. Our hypocrisy has come to an end.

The question now preoccupying the country is how to unblock that loophole? The question is most urgent for the government, headed by Albert Reynolds. The present attorney-general, Harry Whelan, is one of the

few officers left from Mr Haughey's team. In applying for the fatal injunction, he acted on his own initiative, without consulting the government. Mr Reynolds must now be wishing he had dropped Mr Whelan, for his administration is rather more liberal and less cynical than its predecessor.

In particular the minister for health, Dr John O'Connell, is an advanced liberal: a real fire-eater by Irish standards. In a statement made after his appointment, he acknowledged that he did not belong to any "institutional Church". (This makes him only the second member of the Dail to make such an avowal. The first was myself, in 1969.)

I believe Mr Reynolds will have to find a new attorney-general. He needs one who will advise him how to unblock that loophole, not one who tells him there is no loophole available. The best way forward would be to pass a

constitutional amendment providing that nothing in the present constitution shall be interpreted as curtailing the citizen's freedom of movement, including the freedom to leave the jurisdiction.

Such an amendment would go through the Dail without opposition, and would be enacted by a large majority in a referendum. It would leave the working of Article 8 as it stands, but would again open the loophole. This would be hypocritical, but not cruel, which is how the electorate wants it to be.

An amendment along these lines may well be the outcome of the urgent talks on the matter to which Mr Reynolds yesterday invited the leaders of the opposition.

The changes, whatever shape they may take, will probably come too late to help the present victim whose terrible predicament has precipitated them. Oddly, no charges have yet been made against the alleged rapist, whose identity is known. Meanwhile he is free to leave the country. Our constitution does not limit the freedom of movement of rapists; only that of their victims.

An island race looks abroad

Voters have on offer sharply differing foreign policies, argues Charles Powell

Traditionally foreign affairs do not play much of a part in general elections. Perhaps they ought to this time. After all, the world political landscape has changed as much in the past year or two as in the preceding forty.

We are once again in an age of shifting alliances, dissolving empires, new nationalisms, in which Talleyrand or Frans Joseph would have felt at home. The rhetorical devices which have larded political speeches for the past few decades – the Cold War, the Iron Curtain, the evil empire, even the new world order – are beginning to sound as dated as *ITMA* or *Take It From Here*.

While voters will inevitably be concentrating on domestic questions, they ought also to ask which party will be able to secure the maximum influence for Britain in shaping this new world. The issues are straightforward and come down to four or five simple propositions on which the parties can be judged.

The first and most basic is that the fundamentals for a successful foreign policy are a strong economy and strong defence. These were the twin pillars that supported Mrs Thatcher's iron resolve through most of the 1980s, enabling Britain to exercise influence quite disproportionate to its economic weight.

So the judgment about which party will make the best fist of restoring the economy is not just a domestic issue: it will determine how strong we are abroad. The opinion polls suggest that however great our current difficulties, people think this government's policies are more likely to lead to recovery than Labour's.

Defence is no less important. A peace dividend fine so long as there is peace. But will there be?

The main military threat to our security is no longer a hostile Communist superpower, but the recent changes bring risks of their own: of localised conflicts, of surreptitious nuclear weapons programmes carried on by unstable and unscrupulous governments, of a sudden reversal of the present benign trends within the CIS leading to the re-emergence of a nationalistic and belligerent military power in Russia.

None of these can be ruled out, so we must maintain a prudent level of defence. Prudent not in the Treasury sense of the minimum we can get away with but prudent in the light of the responsibilities and leadership which Britain has traditionally shown. Here the government has acquitted itself well. It acted early, with the Options for Change defence review, the significance of which lay not so much in the reduction in our forces, but in the firm platform it built to ensure that we retain adequate forces. The government has also rightly and boldly ordered the fourth Trident submarine to guarantee an effective nuclear deterrent.

Labour too has considerably modified its defence policy, recognising the damage done to its prospects by its stance in the last two elections. Labour leaders deserve credit for that. (We can also dismiss the clumsy attempt to imply that Mr Kinnock was some sort of KGB mole and that therefore a Labour government would be unreliable. Soviet diplomats were clearly no more immune than any others from writing self-serving reports.) What is not clear

is whether Labour's conversion is a matter of conviction or merely of clever drafting. The country cannot afford to wait for an emergency to find out.

The third proposition concerns the future of Europe. The Labour party has moved with almost bewildering speed to align itself with the majority of European governments on economic and monetary union, on the social charter and a host of other issues.

It will certainly present itself as more European than the Conservatives, although of course the

Liberal Democrats will never knowingly be undervalued on Europe. But the question is, may not Labour and the Liberal Democrats find themselves beached? Did Maastricht represent the high-water mark of European integration? Isn't Europe already changing course?

If this forecast is correct, Labour politicians will surely find they have over-shot on Europe. The electorate will be looking not at which party can out-do the other in protesting its attachment to Europe, but at which has the best chance of resisting the amb

tions of the Commission. Tories took the flak for standing out for Britain's national interests: now they can reasonably expect to reap the electoral benefit.

Fourth, the special relationship with the United States will remain vital in the years ahead. We shall need to work even harder to retain it. There is no doubt that the renewed isolationism in large parts of America. The feeling is that with the demise of the Soviet Union, the job has been done, that the remaining boys should come home, and that Europe can at long last look after its own defence. That feeling will be strengthened if Europe seems to be blocking a successful outcome to the Gatt negotiations.

Labour's present leaders have yet to live down some very uncomfortable anti-American utterances, and although the party may now support much of President Bush's foreign policy, it may not be able to conceal a continuing distaste for America's free-enterprise culture. Of more practical importance is whether a Labour government by giving priority to Europe, would bring us to a low point in relations with America, as a Tory government did under Mr Heath in 1973, the so-called Year of Europe.

The last choice for the electorate concerns the tone of Britain's foreign policy. The Tories have shown that it is possible both to champion human rights without stridency and to pursue Britain's trade interests without abandoning its principles. Has Labour learned this lesson? Or would it opt for sanctimonious self-indulgence over hard-headed calculation of what national interest requires?

These issues are more important for Britain's future than those which will probably be given prominence in the election campaign itself. What clearly emerges is that our foreign policy will not simply go on in much the same way whoever wins the election. There are substantial differences of vision, policy and method between the parties, and thus a real choice. In a period of such uncertainty it is more than usually important to get it right.

Sir Charles Powell was private secretary to Mrs Thatcher.



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Last Friday afternoon something horrible happened to Greta, and something wonderful happened to me. It was the same thing. The thing was that Greta dropped her rifle. Then Greta fell on her rifle. Then the snow fell on Greta. And then, as Greta began slowly to disappear under the snow, a spectator laughed. Then all the spectators laughed.

I don't know if you're acquainted with the Women's Biathlon Relay. It is an activity which, if the world were sane, would be the maximum penalty for some unspeakable crime. Since the world is otherwise, it is merely an imponderable Alpine game in which teams of young girls with planks on their feet assemble – in weather you wouldn't send a dog out in – not at the top of a snow-covered hill, which might at least make a little sense, but at the bottom. Each is then given a rifle.

After that, they all stand in a stormful of horizontal snow for a bit, until a dropped flag sends the first member of each team struggling splay-footed up the hill, whereupon she unslings her rifle and tows off five rounds rapid at a target rendered all but invisible by the malicious iso-bars. This done, she hurls herself back to the starting-line and hands over to the next member of her team, who trudges off through the freezing muck to do it all over again.

As a spectator sport, it has nothing: women lurch out of the gloom, fire a gun, and lurch back in. In truth, they do not look as

though they are engaged in a sport at all, they look as they are doing a singularly dreary and dangerous job. You might as well make coalmaking an Olympic event. But worst of all is that this activity, which even when performed successfully is pointless to watch, becomes, when it is performed unsuccessfully, heartbreaking to watch.

Unless, that is, you are a typical Alpine audience. If you are a typical Alpine audience, you laugh until your chin bristles with lachrymal icicles. You gasp until your head vanishes into its own garlic cumulus. Which is why poor Greta's Friday fiasco was so horrible for her. Why it was so wonderful for me was that it finally enabled me, after 38 years, to give up my Alpine career.

In 1954, I went skiing for the first time, on a school party to Beatenberg in the Bernese Oberland. I should have preferred it to have been in the Bernese Unterland, because it all looked a bit steep for a suburban adolescent with so great a terror of public humiliation that the sheer force of his rising blushes often made his neck-boils burst, but there wasn't one, so I resolved to make the best of a bad job. I did not realise how bad a job could be until I appeared for maiden duty on the nursery slopes.

I do not blame my mother, since I myself knew as little as she about Alpine matters, etc. we knew that alps are cold and wet. My mother's answer to this was

Greene on the screen

THE FIRST Graham Greene screenplay in over 40 years is about to go into production. The script for *A Burnt-Out Case*, which will star Richard Harris and Ben Kingsley, was completed by Greene and the writer Christopher Neame only weeks before Greene's death in April last year.

Neame, who produced *Monsieur Quixote*, the most recent film of a Greene novel, spent several months commuting to the novelist's home in the south of France to finish the collaboration. Filming will begin in South Africa in April.

Michael Wilson, the executive producer, says: "Greene was very enthusiastic. *A Burnt-Out Case* was one of the books that he dearly loved, and he made cuts and offered his own suggestions to improve the script which Christopher took on board. He was very excited about the project." Greene's work was so extensive that all royalties from the screenplay will go to the author's estate.

Although most of his books have been made into films, Greene fans are especially excited about *A Burnt-Out Case* because the screenplay was the first Greene's masterpiece. The *Third Man* in 1949. The film will be directed by Christopher Neame's father, Ronald, who made *Brief Encounter*.

The South African location has raised eyebrows, but Michael Wilson says: "It has the right geography, the right infrastructure, and we will use 'black' actors. Greene knew it would have to be done there. It is not controversial." Equity may disagree. A spokesman says: "We will advise members not to work in South Africa, although we do not have any disciplinary measures."



DIA

Could Britain's lack of medals at the Winter Olympics be due to an outbreak of dysentery? Organisers at the Olympic village feared the worst when they discovered that on average six large packs of lavatory paper were being used by each apartment every day. Alas for British pride, an official enquiry has found the British team to be in regular health. They are using the paper to apply coatings of wax to their skis.

Latest whisper

ALTHOUGH St Paul's has not yet invited the *moneylenders* to the temple, they are certainly waiting at the great west door of Wren's masterpiece. The cathedral has announced it is looking for a City partner.

St Paul's first embraced market forces last year, when it called in Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte and introduced an admission charge. Thus emboldened, cathedral officials now plan an upmarket shop and a restaurant in the crypt. "When you are the stewards of a national monument there are responsibilities to the public. If you charge to come in, it creates its own problems. It is a vicious circle. They expect amenities, and we need the help of a City partner to fund it," says the Archdeacon of London, the Venerable George

Cassidy. "We never felt happy trading on the cathedral floor, and now the shop has grown from a table to a higgledy-piggledy mess: it must be moved."

When the cathedral introduced charges last year for the first time since 1851, it was heading for a £1.1 million deficit. The deficit has now almost been cleared, with an income from admission charges in the first six months of £600,000. But far from abolishing the charges, the cathedral has just announced a further increase – from £2 per head to £2.50.

Ged

Marilyn martyred

AFTER Oliver Stone's *JFK*, America is preparing for a new controversy over its second most famous icon and sometime Kennedy girl, Marilyn Monroe. A drama documentary to be shown on American TV later this month will recreate the last hours of Monroe's life and dispute the verdict that she died alone from a drug overdose. The film, for the television series *Hard Copy*, was shot in the room where Monroe was found dead, and is openly inspired by Stone's movie. "JFK showed how you can revisit historical events in an

investigative manner and dress them up like a movie," says the programme's Peter Brennan.

The reconstruction of her death, which is being syndicated by Paramount, has provoked controversy in American television, which is already riven by a debate on the merits of dramatised "news". The programme will conclude that Monroe was murdered in a plot masterminded by the Mafia boss Sam Giancana – a theory also endorsed in a new book by Giancana's brother, Chuck.

Hidden agenda

PADDY ASHDOWN will bare his soul this weekend in a television interview about sex. The programme, which was made just days before details emerged of his extra-marital affair, now makes poignant viewing. Unaware of the storm about to break around him, Ashdown complains about the unhealthy attention paid to politicians' private lives. "The result is that we will have mediocre politics – who may be perfectly safe, but not necessarily good – running the country."

Ashdown recorded the interview for Channel 4's *Star Chamber* on 24 January – when he knew that his solicitors had been burgled, but before he knew that a tabloid newspaper was proposing to expose him. "The Commons is a monstrosity . . . it's a place that destroys MPs' health and quite often destroys their marriages," he says. "But I have to confess I find *Felicity Kendal* extraordinarily sexy."

• Malcolm Rifkind put his love of the railways



HARD CASE OF BAD LAW

The Irish High Court's injunction banning an abortion on a 14-year-old girl demonstrates with devastating cruelty the foolishness of the anti-abortion referendum in Ireland nine years ago. Abortion was already a criminal offence in Ireland. But that was not enough for anti-abortion campaigners. They wanted to enshrine opposition to abortion as a fundamental principle of the Irish state by writing it into the constitution.

This is why on Monday the Irish High Court was able to make an order preventing an Irish citizen having an abortion even while outside the jurisdiction of the Irish state. Britain, whose more relaxed law makes Ireland's abortion safety valve, sees an estimated 4,000 abortions on Irish women a year. As a result of this week's case, all such women could in future be held virtual prisoners in their own country by court injunctions.

To its credit, Irish public opinion has been brought up short. Politicians and newspapers are dismayed and embarrassed. Few claim to have known that the constitutional amendment could have such a wide consequence, although some opponents of the amendment said so at the time. Even the judge making the order referred to "painful and distressing events, resulting in tragedy and a great measure of human suffering".

The facts of the case could hardly have been more shocking. The girl was pregnant as a result of rape by a friend of her father, who had been sexually molesting her over a period of a year. The reporting of the rape to the police began a chain of events which led to the Irish Attorney General, Harry Whelehan, seeking an injunction to stop an intended abortion in Britain. The girl is now said to be suicidal. If ever there was a time when a law officer should have put his telescope to the wrong eye, this was surely it. This is not to ask Mr Whelehan to concede the pro-abortion case, that the deliberate destruction of a foetus is a moral choice to be made by the mother alone. British and Irish abortion laws both accept that the state has

some responsibility for the life of the foetus. British law strikes a balance between the claim of the foetus and the claim of the mother — nowadays tending to favour the mother — according to the principle of the lesser of two evils. Irish law reflects the teaching of the Catholic Church that some human actions, abortion included, are absolutely wrong and can never be justified as the lesser evil.

Moral guidance is for individual conscience; legal coercion is for the state. It is a political rather than a moral decision of the majority of Irish electors to align Irish criminal and constitutional law with the absolutist teaching of their church. Catholicism itself does not require that alignment, as Irish bishops occasionally if somewhat reluctantly admit. The Catholic bishops of England, Wales and Scotland have been clearer. While campaigning for less abortion, they deliberately do not campaign for a legal ban on all abortion.

In framing laws, legislators need to satisfy conditions which do not have to be met by religious bodies in formulating their moral teaching. On matters touching morality, a law must make room for conscientious dissent, even when that dissent extends to what anti-abortionists consider a matter of life and death. A law must not be so harsh as to bring itself into disrepute and thus jeopardise general consent to its obedience. And a law must not be so vague and general that judges may extend it with unimaginable consequences. By all these tests the British "lesser of evils" approach makes for a more realistic and consensual abortion law.

All citizens are at liberty to apply religious absolutes to themselves. They should not insist on coercing others into doing likewise. That is the mistake for which one young Irish girl is expected to pay a high price. But the wave of sympathy for her in Ireland may bring nearer the desirable day when that country's constitution ceases to impose one particular set of political and religious assumptions on all its citizens.

SICKER MAN OF EUROPE

Germans do not take the same grim pleasure as Britons and Americans in classifying their economic misfortunes, but the figures speak for themselves. Germany is in a full-blown recession, although the government and the Bundesbank have yet to make an official admission. As the Bundesbank acknowledged on Monday, Germany's gross national product has declined at an annual rate of 2 per cent for three quarters running. The indicators suggest that output is continuing to fall in the present quarter too.

In the past two months the German mark has become one of the world's weakest currencies. Providentially for the British, it has fallen even against the pound. Yesterday so much capital fled Germany that the mark had to be defended by the Bank of Italy, no less. All this has happened despite the business opportunities offered by German reunification and in direct contradiction of the widely predicted euphoria about the completion of the Single European Market after 1992. Few European politicians are yet aware of Germany's fall from economic grace. Since Britain entered the German-dominated exchange-rate mechanism, progressive thinkers in all the main political parties have dreamt of foisting the German model on every British institution and social arrangement: central banking, collective pay bargaining, home ownership, even the voting system.

Germany's would-be emulators have missed the boat. The model started to grind its gears in the mid-1970s. By the early 1980s, Germany was being left out of the boom in employment creation and business formation then being seen in America and Britain. And criticism began to be heard even within Germany about monopolistic trade unions, over-protective social legislation, intrusive government regulation and pervasive industrial subsidies. Indeed, during the heyday of market economics in the 1980s, the German model was more usually described as a disease, Eurosclerosis.

NAMING THE UNMENTIONABLE

In the 19th century British parliamentarians thought little of using their position to enrich themselves. Now some are trying to diminish the amount by which they impoverish themselves. Those Tory members who interrogated David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's, on Monday may well have been acting selflessly in the interests of their constituents. And that some of them personally stand to lose many thousands of pounds in the insurance market may have had no bearing on their aggressive questioning.

But not many Lloyd's names win a private audience with the chairman, still less an opportunity to whinge loudly without the risk of being bundled out of his room. In the words of one (admittedly Labour) witness at Monday's meeting, the occasion was used by a minority of MPs for what he indelicately called "the pursuit of private vendettas".

The wailing of Lloyd's names over the past year would drown the mourners at an Indian funeral. Some have been forced to sell their country homes or even (very few) remove their children from private schools. The secretary who was given membership of Lloyd's as a leaving present from her boss does raise a tear of sympathy. But for most of the 1970s and 1980s, Lloyd's members made a lot of money for no work. Their money worked twice over: once at Lloyd's and again by being invested elsewhere.

Tory MPs who are also Lloyd's names have resorted to leaking their dissatisfaction at what they call "structural rotteness" at Lloyd's to the benches opposite. All of a sudden, the richest Conservatives are in

Then at the end of the decade, the Germans seemed to have the last laugh. After languishing with almost no growth from 1980 to 1987, the German economy suddenly sprang to life and enjoyed three years of prosperity. Moans of structural rigidity and industrial feather-bedding were forgotten. With the American and British economies veering towards recession, a fashion-conscious economic establishment forged Eurosclerosis and waxed lyrical once more on a return of the German economic miracle of the 1950s, a final triumph of Ludwig Erhard's finely balanced "social market" economics over the brutalism of Anglo-Saxon laissez-faire.

The truth was simpler and less portentous. Germany's prosperity from 1988 to 1991 was due to a series of large tax cuts and lavish deficit spending to finance unification. That country's economic policy in the late 1980s was similar to Ronald Reagan's in 1982 and Nigel Lawson's in 1988. The result was comparable, though less intense. Inflation accelerated and the current account moved from its traditional huge surplus to a deficit for the first time in ten years. But even at the height of the reunification boom, Germany's economy did not grow as rapidly as Britain's in 1987 and 1988. Neither did its capacity to create new businesses and jobs match Britain's and America's during their supply-side revolutions.

The length and severity of Germany's recession will now depend on whether the Bundesbank and the government can reconcile their monetary and fiscal policies so as to bring down German interest rates and gradually narrow the budget deficit. The omens are not good. The Bundesbank refuses even to admit the economy is in recession, despite the evidence of its own figures. The government seems unwilling to cut subsidies or to pay for reunification with higher taxes. At this rate, it may be years before the rest of Europe can speak of a German economic miracle again.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE KENNEDY
(Prospective parliamentary candidate for North Down (Conservative),
3 My Lady's Mile,
Holywood, Co Down.
February 18.

Where were all these MPs in 1982? The Lloyd's Act of that year let the market off the regulatory hook that was to restrict the rest of the City later. Admittedly names were not allowed to vote because it was a private bill, but many were happy to lobby in favour of their friends, convincing colleagues that clubby self-regulation was all that was needed. In 1986, when the financial services bill was going through Parliament, why was there not more pressure from names to bring Lloyd's within its scope, as *The Times* among others was urging?

The answer is that the spring tide of money-making at Lloyd's hid the detritus of incompetence that was exposed only when the tide receded. Some ministers were themselves names and Tory MPs were reluctant to question such a neat way of augmenting their parliamentary salaries. Lloyd's membership seemed perfect for that purpose. As a passive investment it did not hinder political advancement since ministers were allowed to stay in the market. Not so perfect are today's prospects. MPs who go bankrupt have to resign their seats. It has been an unedifying chapter in parliamentary history, but nobody in Parliament will say so.

'Shoot to kill' in Ulster and Israel

From the Attorney General for Northern Ireland

Sir, Your leading article today, "Deadly debits", depresses and astounds me. You discuss, and by inference equate, recent killings in South Lebanon by Israeli forces and in Northern Ireland by British forces.

You say: "Neither case is susceptible to the snap moral judgment of those sitting safe in distant armchairs. Both must be subject to the pragmatic test of each act of war: how far will it contribute to eventual peace?" You conclude by saying that killings in Northern Ireland, as well as in South Lebanon, "will be hard to defend as a means to an end".

It would not be merely "hard" to defend a killing as a means to such an end: it would be impossible. I leave aside whether you know what happened in either instance: I certainly do not. But you do a disservice to those steadfastly upholding the rule of law in Northern Ireland by implying that such a defence would ever be put forward, or would be listened to for a moment if it were. No use of force can be justified unless it conforms to the law.

It may be that the key to your article lies in its reference to "Britain" projecting its power into Ulster. Northern Ireland is international, let alone national, law is part of the United Kingdom.

Be that as it may, the inference behind your remark that "the killings in South Lebanon and Coalisland cannot be excused as equal and opposite to, for instance, recent IRA outrages or the murder of Israeli soldiers in their beds last Friday" I find sickening. To my knowledge, only you have posted the putting forward of such an argument by anyone.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MAYHEW,
Attorney General's Chambers,
9 Buckingham Gate, SW1.
February 18.

From Lord Mayhew

Sir, To link the killings in South Lebanon with those in Coalisland is to whitewash Israel and insult Britain.

The Israelis have no rights, and no responsibilities for law and order, in South Lebanon: the British have both in Northern Ireland. The Israelis killed defenceless civilians: the British, armed terrorists.

The British government does not send helicopters into the Republic of Ireland to attack and kill unarmed IRA supporters and their families.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW,
House of Lords.
February 18.

From Dr Laurence Kennedy

Sir, One of the terrorists killed at Coalisland had, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, been expelled from Great Britain, but could roar into the other part of the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland.

This "internal exile" protects the people of England, Scotland and Wales while exposing the long-suffering Northern Irish, currently denied the weapon of internment, to a greater terrorist threat. Perhaps people on "the mainland" should think about this before loyally dismissing internment as draconian.

It is sometimes said that internment would be unacceptable to Catholics in Northern Ireland. This incident illustrates the sad reality that if IRA terrorism is to be defeated without internment there will be many more young Catholic (and Protestant) people killed, with all the attendant grief that will bring. Had there been internment, it is quite possible that the families of the four terrorists would not now be mourning their loss.

Your leader today says that in Ulster "a periodic shoot-to-kill incident may be tactically preferable to internment". Whether or not there is internment, the government must be prepared to meet force with appropriate force, as was the case in Coalisland. Use of the term "shoot-to-kill" is not only emotive but misleading, in implying that "shoot-not-to-kill" can be a practicable option for policemen or soldiers confronting armed terrorists. The only realistic options in such a situation surely are to shoot or not to shoot.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE KENNEDY
(Prospective parliamentary candidate for North Down (Conservative),
3 My Lady's Mile,
Holywood, Co Down.
February 18.

Tories and civil rights

From Mr Ian Taylor, MP for Esher (Conservative)

Sir, Anthony Lester's article ("Mandarin Britain", February 12) arguing for a bill of rights is based on a farce of untenable assertions.

To assert that the government opposes the reforms proposed by Charter 88 is correct. To assert that it is "no friend of constitutional reform" is nonsense. Conservative governments have been responsible for many major constitutional advances, including the most significant of recent decades — membership of the European Community. Conservatives are not opposed to change when there is a proven need for it. What we are not in favour of are half-baked

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Yugoslavia and the commitment to a peacekeeping force

From Mr Edward Cowan

Sir, As your defence correspondent rightly indicates ("Yugoslavia and Ulster put army cuts to test", February 14) the government has faced a dilemma over the commitment of troops to a United Nations force in Yugoslavia.

The United Kingdom is a permanent member of the Security Council and currently occupies its presidency. Shortly, it will also take up the presidency of the European Community. In the circumstances it would seem right for the government to show sufficient commitment and support for the enhancement of the United Nations' peacekeeping role within the new world order.

To send only logistic and medical troops at this time to Yugoslavia would be to give the wrong political signal, especially when the United Nations' primary military need in Croatia is for well led and well trained infantry. Britain's infantry is the finest in the world today in the peacekeeping field and should be used in part in Yugoslavia.

During the past month force levels have been raised significantly in Ulster. Northern Ireland is international, let alone national, law is part of the United Kingdom.

The fact that this has happened prior to the reductions in Britain's infantry by over a quarter should surely cause the next government to question the fundamental conclusions reached in the present government's Options for Change defence review.

Why pursue further nuclear weapon development for the RAF at a cost of £2.5 billion when it is clear, in the aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse and the rise in nationalist tensions, that peacekeeping under the aegis of the United Nations is an infinitely more important task which requires British support through the retention and use of our much admired and

thoroughly professional infantry force for this purpose?

Yours etc,
EDWARD COWAN
(Defence and Military Attaché
to Yugoslavia 1987-90,
36 Pall Mall, SW1).

From the Minister of Information for the Republic of Croatia

Sir, Your February 14 leader ("Peacekeeping perils") demonstrates a misunderstanding of the problems faced by the UN peacekeeping effort in Croatia. You imply that President Tudjman and the Croatian government are increasingly following far-right, quasi-fascist policies and denying protection to the Serbo minority in Croatia. The Croats, having "pocketed EC recognition", are described as "seeking to use the UN presence in the captured territories as a cover to extend Croatian control of Serbian towns and villages". And some nationalists even more extreme than the Croatian officials are said to be pressuring Dr Tudjman into glorifying the fascist alliance with Germany.

This picture bears little resemblance to the truth. The Croatian parliament has adopted, as an integral part of the Constitution, far-reaching legislation on human and minority rights. To my knowledge it is more comprehensive than any comparable law in Europe. Croatia has expressed readiness further to elaborate it in its practical application if the need should arise.

Croatia has been identified internationally as a victim of unprovoked aggression inflicted by one of the largest armies in Europe. We have "pocketed recognition" to the tune of more than 20,000 dead and wounded, a third of the economy and large parts of the cultural heritage destroyed, and more than a quarter of our territory occupied. We have paid a very high price indeed for insistence on the integrity of Croatia's own borders and do not have to use the UN or anybody else as a cover.

Yours etc,
BRANKO SALAJ,
41000 Zagreb, Opatika 8,
Republic of Croatia.

secondary level, and courses were drawn up accordingly. They therefore relate broadly to a range of possible future careers.

The strength of the German system, which Boyson and Dunn also mention, lies in the fact that all school-leavers up to the age of 19 must attend a part-time vocational school. As for Japan, employers often prefer to take on young people and train them themselves. Our own youth training scheme and similar projects, if politicians were sufficiently innovative, could develop in similar ways.

In any case, is not the insistence on the economic advantage to society of education being overdone? Education is also for the development of the individual: the 1944 Education Act, it was said at the time, was designed "to procure for children a happier childhood".

Yours faithfully,
W. D. HALLS,
2 Field House Drive, Oxford.
February 12.

Blame for Glencoe

From Sir David Hunt

Sir, Alan Hamilton has got himself into a fine one with Campbell soup. Writing about Glencoe (report, February 14) he says "the Campbells had been prevalent upon to act as agents for the Westminster government". He is misled by current political slogans and the tendency to blame the English for all Scotland's woes.

As these events took place before the Union, he should have written "the Edinburgh government": the massacre was planned, ordered and carried out exclusively by Scotsmen, and I include in that honourable title William III, King of Scotland.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
DAVID HUNT,
Old Place,
Lindfield, Sussex.
February 14.

Protecting workers

From Ms Martine Winfield

Sir, I welcome the government's intention to protect oil-rig workers from victimisation when they report safety concerns to the Health and Safety Executive (report, February 11). Employees who make anonymous reports are often identifiable and therefore anonymity should not be considered as likely or reliable protection.

The shortcomings of anti-victimisation clauses in race-relations legislation have shown that what constitutes victimisation has to be

precisely defined. Penalties have to be stiff. When protection fails, as it may well do often, compensation should reflect the true value of the sacrifice made to both present and future job prospects: the North Sea is a closed world where blacklisting is easy.

As much oil-rig work is casual, protection must also extend to those on short-term contracts.

Yours faithfully,
MARLENE WINFIELD (Fellow),
Public Interest Research
Centre Ltd.,
PO Box 111, London NW1 8XG.
February 11.

proposals that are ill thought-out and offered as simplistic solutions to complex problems.

Mr Lester claims that the government opposed Jim Wallace's "fair votes bill". Mr Wallace did not introduce a fair votes bill and the government did not oppose it. Mr Wallace introduced a "let's give more proportionate power to little parties" bill; it was thrown out by the House on the recommendation of my backbench colleague, Robert Adley.

Mr Lester also asserts that min-

isters may come to regret their "contemptuous rejection of a modern, coherent system that secures real democracy". How can they have rejected what they have not been offered? The fact is, our current constitutional arrangements already allow for real democracy and real rights, not the "paper rights" advocated by constitution-mongers, such as Mr Lester.

Finally, may I be permitted to observe that the most recent British Social Attitudes Survey found that 85 per cent of respondents felt that the rights of the individual are very or fairly well protected in Britain.

Yours faithfully,
IAN TAYLOR,
House of Commons.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (07

OBITUARIES

ROLAND HARPER

Roland Harper, food psychophysicist, died on January 28 aged 75. He was born on March 23rd, 1916.

ROLAND Harper extended the boundaries of knowledge of the texture and flavour of food. He defined 44 categories of smell which enabled a more accurate description to be given so that better flavoured foods could be developed. The work had wide application in the food and drinks industry, not least in brewing where a company producing a particular beer wishes it to have the brand flavour although produced in different locations.

Harper was a psychophysicist. He bridged the two disciplines of psychology and physics. He pursued during his life the psychological impact of physical phenomena. In the food industry that meant the relationship between the chemical composition of the product and its texture and flavour.

Harper graduated at Manchester University, BSc in physics and MSc in psychology, an unusual combination that was to form the basis of his career. His thesis dealt with perception, in his case colour constancy. In 1939 he joined the Meteorological Office, which at that time depended greatly on visual perception. He was

Dictionary. After serving as acting head of the department for a year he was appointed senior lecturer. He involved himself in the planning of the BSc in food science inaugurated in Leeds in 1962. After 14 years at Leeds University Harper accepted a principal research fellowship at the Food Research Institute, Norwich. This fixed-term appointment allowed him to collaborate in an extensive analysis of the nature of odour classification, the definition of a comprehensive set of odour qualities and a system of describing them accurately in a way which could be used both by experts and lay people.

While this pioneering work was being carried out the scientific climate changed, frustrating extension of the fellowship. Thus Harper went on to undertake short-term appointments in Chile and Greece. When a Leverhulme senior fellowship became available at the University of Reading in 1981 he was again able to take up in his research aspects of his main interest, the measurement of the behaviour which is the expressed response to what is perceived. He also vigorously developed sensory studies and quality evaluation as an important element of all the degree courses offered by the food science department. He was largely responsible for initiating, and then was tutor of, an introductory course for overseas students coming to Reading to read for the MSc in food science.

His expertise was also applied in assignments in Nigeria, Sudan and Uganda. Harper was a founder member of the European Chemoreception Organisation. He was elected a fellow of the British Psychological Society in 1952 and of the Institute of Food Science and Technology in 1972. He also made many substantial contributions to standardisation of sensory methodology in both international standards and in those produced by the American Society for Testing Materials.

Harper published three monographs or books. *Psychological and Psychophysical Studies of Craftsmanship in Dairying, Odour Description and Odour Classification* (with E. C. Batte-Smith and D. G. Land), and *Human Senses in Action*, and, almost 100 papers.

In 1987 the University of Reading, jointly with the Society of Chemical Industry, organised a symposium on food acceptability to honour Harper's work. He is survived by his wife, a daughter and two sons.



Moved to Norwich and in 1943 was mobilised as a flight lieutenant in the RAF as part of the job.

In 1946 he joined the National Institute for Research in Dairying, part of the University of Reading. Harper then moved to the University of Leeds where he joined the department of psychology in 1950. Words to describe what are perceived attributes of food continued to be most important to him and his wife, Anne, helped him to extract all the food-descriptive terms from the 200,000 words of the Concise Oxford

LEONARD RAVER

Leonard Raver, organist of the New York Philharmonic orchestra and a noted champion of contemporary organ music, died of AIDS in New York on January 29 aged 65. He was born in Wenatchee, Washington State, on January 8, 1927.

ALTHOUGH he was considered a gifted interpreter of Baroque music, Leonard Raver felt strongly about the need to encourage contemporary composers and build a large repertory of modern American works in a variety of styles.

"If you keep playing the same pieces over and over," he said in a 1980 interview, "it becomes like a museum. I live in the twentieth century, and I have a responsibility to the future and to the composers of my time."

During the past two decades, after he began per-

forming regularly with the New York Philharmonic, Raver commissioned or gave the premières of dozens of new works for the organ. Among them were Ned Rorem's *Quaker Reader and Organbook*, Daniel Pinkham's *Organ Concerto*, Vincent Persichetti's *Audem Variations*, Gardner Read's *Phantasmagoria* and David Diamond's *Symphony for Organ*.

Raver worked hard to win public support for modern organ music, staging "Organism concerts" in which he mixed new works with Baroque and Romantic scores to show the continuity of the organ repertory, and included electronic sounds and percussion.

In addition to his concert work, Raver taught at a number of colleges and conservatories, including the Juilliard School and Yale University.

Receptions

Glaziers' Company

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, attended a reception last night at Glaziers Hall to mark the tenth anniversary of the London Stained Glass Repository. Mr Alfred Fisher, Master of the Glaziers' Company, Mr George Gee, chairman of the repository trustees, and Mr Roger Shrimpton, chairman of the repository committee, were the hosts. The Duke of Grafton, an Honorary Freeman of the Glaziers' Company, introduced the work of the repository in rescuing endangered stained glass.

International Press Foundation Mr Paul Hodgson, Chairman of the Governors of the International Press Foundation, presided at a reception held yesterday at Press Foundation House, Westminster, to mark the publication of the 1992 report. As We See You — Come Nous Vous Voyons.

Latest wills

Lord Rootes, of North Standen, Berkshire, chairman of Chrysler UK, left estate valued at £4,216,414 net. He left his estate mostly to relatives.

SIR HENRY ROWE

Sir Henry Rowe KCB, QC, parliamentary draftsman and former First Parliamentary Counsel, died on February 13 aged 75. He was born on August 18, 1916.

AS FIRST Parliamentary Counsel Henry Rowe had charge of the office responsible for drafting all government bills other than those relating exclusively to Scotland. He was the first in that post not to have been brought up in an English-speaking environment. Heinz Peter Röhr, as he was then known, was born in Ischl, Austria, of a Czech father and an Austrian mother and did not leave Austria for England until 1938.

The testimony to his powers of intellect and command of language is the number of bills of which he had charge during his time as a senior member of the office from 1961 until retirement in 1981. One of his first major acts, the Licensing Act 1961, remains — in consolidated form — the basis of the ability of most restaurants today to serve an alcoholic drink with a meal. The Rent Act 1965 introduced the system of regulated tenancies which is still the basis of most private letting. From 1971 to 1976 Rowe took on the ultimate intellectual challenge — the drafting of the annual Finance Bill. The Scottish and Welsh devolution acts of 1978 were Rowe's. His last tour de force was the Housing Act 1980 which completely changed the basis on which local authority tenants rent their homes and introduced "the right to buy".

In 1935 Röhr had become a student in Vienna University but in 1938 he left Austria and came to England where he enrolled as an undergraduate at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, to read English law. Again his studies were interrupted: this time by internment at the outbreak of war.

Not only was Röhr a brilliant scholar at Cambridge, he was also acknowledged by the then professor of music as a "first class amateur



During his time at Cambridge, however, his abilities were quickly recognised. Professor Winfield was later to record: "I have had some 50 years' experience in teaching law and he was one of the best pupils I have ever had." The equally distinguished Professor Wade commented: "Röhr offered me, unasked, a most intelligent critique of my introduction to Dicey's *Law of the Constitution* less than a year after he started his learning of English law. Although Röhr was prevented by internment from sitting for his degree, he was *in absentia* awarded a degree at the level of first class honours.

By 1941 some of those who had been interned were permitted to join the army in a "non-combatant" role. So it was that the brilliant Austrian law student found himself in the lowest rank in the Pioneer Corps. Worse, he was required to play the piano for the dances in the sergeants' mess; and, to a man for whom even Mozart was a trifling racy, that was purgatory indeed. But Röhr's military fortunes changed: he was transferred to the 7th Armoured Division where — even more incongruously to those who knew him later — he became a dispatch rider.

With the end of the war came promotion to warrant officer and a post with the education branch of the British military government in Berlin.

Back in England in 1947 and, already enrolled at Gray's Inn, Röhr was called to the bar. After a brief pupillage in Chancery Chambers, he was invited to join the Parliamentary Counsel Office. The office was expanding and Röhr's prodigious intellect had been brought to the attention of the then First Parliamentary Counsel, Sir Granville Ram. In May 1947 Röhr took up his post as an "unestablished assistant" in the office. At this time he also changed his name to Henry Peter Rowe and married Patricia, who was to give him such wonderful support for the rest of his life.

The contrast between Rowe's spoken and written word was considerable. His speech was overlaid with a strong accent. In addition, he was very softly spoken. These factors did not make him the easiest man to understand, particularly in the technical world of statute law. His writing, however, and particularly his drafting, was fluent, lucid and concise. When he had taken a view on some issue, a crisp, clear — and sometimes acerbic — letter would go to the instructing department setting out the Rowe position. The "Rowe position" indeed for him was not of a man whose mind was easily changed. The views he formed were the result of a logical analysis of the problem and the relevant legal principles: how then could they be changed?

In 1971 Rowe was appointed CB and, in 1973, to be one of two joint Second Parliamentary Counsel. In 1977 he became First Parliamentary Counsel. In 1978 he was created KCB and took silk.

He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter.

APPRECIATIONS

Lord Fieldhouse

LORD Fieldhouse's obituary (February 18) inadvertently shortened his career at both ends. In fact he began it at Dartmouth (aged 13½) in 1941, not in 1944 as stated, and ended it on the threshold of becoming chairman of the Military Committee of Nato. Indeed it was in Brussels and at a meeting of that committee that he suffered the massive vascular accident which, though miraculously repaired at the time, was in the end to lead to his death.

It is not accurate either to remember his early reputation as having been "something of a Whitehall Warrior." Until he went, in 1973, to be director of naval warfare, he was markedly short on MOD experience; and the appointment was thus of the "make or break" variety. But he proved himself then in Whitehall — and he had earlier proved himself at sea when, as executive officer of *Hermes*, his captain went sick, and he (already a successful submariner) had opportunity to demonstrate his competence as a comparatively junior officer in command of an aircraft carrier.

John Fieldhouse's personality was not mentioned. He was a quiet, phlegmatic Yorkshireman — and proud of it (Yorkshire lambs gambol with a submarine's dolphins on his coat of arms). He was invariably considerate of others, had a delightful sense of humour and was without a trace of "side". For these reasons he was greatly respected and very well liked by all who worked with him, of whatever relative rank.

No appreciation of his career can be complete without mention of the part his wife Margaret, "Midge" to all who knew her, played in it. They were a team whose characters complemented each other perfectly. Where he was calm, she was effervescent. Where he was in duty bound to be reserved, she spoke her mind fearlessly — to anybody. She was a splendid support to him — especially when he was a very senior officer under pressure, and never more so than at Northwood and during the Falklands War.

P. R. D. K.



South Atlantic. The expected telephone call cancelling lunch never came, so we set off. On the steps of Admiralty House John met us in uniform, all smiles. "Did you hear the news on your car radio?" he asked. "The wrong Minister has resigned" (Lord Carrington).

Lunch was a convivial affair, presided over by his adoring wife and steadfast supporter, Midge. Apart from the fact that his chief of staff left early, it was relaxed and unhurried. The commander-in-chief never glanced at his wrist-watch.

J. O. C.

LORD DULVERTON



Lord Dulverton, CBE, TD, 2nd Baron, a former director of the Imperial Tobacco company, died on February 17 aged 76. He was born on December 19, 1915.

ALTHOUGH he was the senior member of the Wills tobacco family and had served for 18 years on the board of the company, the second Lord Dulverton was not, like his father and grandfather before him, ever at the helm of the tobacco business. Rather he was known as a staunch and knowledgeable courtlyman and for his many gifts to and sponsorships of a wide variety of causes and individuals through his chairmanship of the Dulverton Trust. The breadth of the trust's interests was notable and covered such disparate activities as financial aid to the Earl of Longford's study group on pornography, which was active in research into the subject in the 1970s, and sponsorship of *Gypsy Moth IV*, the yacht in which Sir Francis Chichester sailed single-handed round the world in 226 days in 1966-67. It is to Dulverton's credit that *Gypsy Moth IV* was eventually preserved as part of the nation's maritime heritage at Greenwich where she can be seen to this day in a concrete dry berth not far from the *Cutty Sark*. Lord Dulverton also commissioned the 272ft Overlord Embroidery, which portrays the 1944 Normandy landings, and gave it to the nation.

Frederick Anthony Hamilton Wills was the son of the 1st Lord Dulverton who had been chairman of Imperial Tobacco from 1924 to 1947. His mother was a daughter of Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Chichester, Bt, and hence he himself was a cousin to Francis Chichester. He was educated at Eton and Magdalene College, Oxford, where he took his MA and where he became Waynflete fellow in 1982.

A keen enthusiast for territorial soldiering, he was commissioned into the Lovat Scouts (TA) in 1935. Throughout

the second world war he served with the Lovat Scouts and was promoted major in 1944.

In 1950 he became a member of the board of Imperial Tobacco and in the same year was appointed a joint Master of the North Cotswold Foxhounds. Besides his many activities on behalf of the family trust, Lord Dulverton was usefully able to indulge his love of the countryside, from his Gloucestershire seat, Basford Park, Moreton-in-Marsh, through his work with the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation, the Forestry Committee of Great Britain, and the Wildfowl Trust and many similar organisations. A man whose love of the country was backed up by a profound knowledge of matters such as ecological balance, he was a frequent correspondent to *The Times* pointing out the dangers to the rural environment posed by those he believed ignorant of such matters. In 1983 he took the paper severely to task for an article which had appeared in it criticising the planting of barren uplands with conifers. By virtue of his experience as a Scotch landowner, too, he was able persuasively to contest the commonly articulated view that in all cases conifers spell death to the regeneration of the countryside. In his letters, as in his person, Lord Dulverton could be robust, if not hot-tempered, in argument. Last November he was fined £50 for assaulting a nurse and failing to report an accident, after his car had been in collision with the nurse's bicycle. But he was fundamentally a humane man. After his divorce, through which he had surrounded it, he went to Jordan where he spent five months living among nomadic tribes and alleviating their drought-stricken plight on behalf of the Save The Children Fund.

He had married, in 1939, Judith Betty, a daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon Ian Leslie Melville. This marriage ended in 1960 in a widely-publicised divorce, which followed not long after Dulverton's resignation as joint master of the North Cotswold pack.

He married, secondly in 1962, Mrs Violet Fanshawe, daughter of Sir Walter Randolph Fitzroy Farquhar, 5th Bt, herself a former joint Master of the North Cotswold Foxhounds.

Besides his many activities on behalf of the family trust, Lord Dulverton was usefully able to indulge his love of the countryside, from his Gloucestershire seat, Basford Park, Moreton-in-Marsh, through his work with the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation, the Forestry Committee of Great Britain, and the Wildfowl Trust and many similar organisations. A man whose love of the country was backed up by a profound knowledge of matters such as ecological balance, he was a frequent correspondent to *The Times* pointing out the dangers to the rural environment posed by those he believed ignorant of such matters. In 1983 he took the paper severely to task for an article which had appeared in it criticising the planting of barren uplands with conifers. By virtue of his experience as a Scotch landowner, too, he was able persuasively to contest the commonly articulated view that in all cases conifers spell death to the regeneration of the countryside. In his letters, as in his person, Lord Dulverton could be robust, if not hot-tempered, in argument. Last November he was fined £50 for assaulting a nurse and failing to report an accident, after his car had been in collision with the nurse's bicycle. But he was fundamentally a humane man. After his divorce, through which he had surrounded it, he went to Jordan where he spent five months living among nomadic tribes and alleviating their drought-stricken plight on behalf of the Save The Children Fund.

There were two sons and a daughter (and a daughter now dead) of his first marriage. The elder son, the Hon (Gilbert) Michael Hamilton Wills, succeeds him.

Appointments

Major General Geoffrey William Field, late RE, to be Honorary Colonel, Royal Engineers Volunteers (Specialist Unit).

Mr Leslie Walter Lawrence Dunkley to be a joint district judge at the King's Lynn, Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Wisbech county courts and in the district registry of the High Court at King's Lynn, Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

Mr Christopher John Trossens to be a joint district judge at the Plymouth county court and in the district registry of the High Court at Plymouth, from April 6.

Mr Trevor Graham Brett to be a joint district judge at the Uxbridge, Slough and Reigate county courts, from April 6.

Today's royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend a reception given by the Ashmolean Museum at Spencer House at 6.30.

The Princess of Wales will attend a reception to celebrate RoSPA's 75th anniversary at Guildhall at 6.45.

are made up at the end of the war. Thus the whole clothing of a regiment arrives, and the public supposes that all that is required is that the men should be marched to the vessel, and, having divested themselves of their civilian attire, should return to their dress uniforms and efficiency. In this, however, we are very much mistaken. The commanding officer cannot give a valid receipt for the clothing: the functionary who can probably has no place to stow it away in: he may be absent, sick, or so other causes may prevent him from attending to it. The ragged battalion is no doubt there, and the much-wanted equipment ready for its use, but the uniform is irreconcilable with it: tape measures, an elastic belt, an insipid cap, an interval of 1,000 leagues. Blunderbuss have not doubt occurred, and always will occur in warfare. The want of a mad from Balaklava has been the cause of very great misery, delay, and disaster; but the real difficulty has lain throughout in the wretched system which has sacrificed our gallant army to enable auditors and accountants to balance their books when the war is over...

The plain remedy for such a state of things is, simply, to treat our commanding officers as honest men. If a regiment requires clothing, food, or fuel, let it be forthcoming on receipt of an order from the commanding officer, countersigned, where it is practicable, by the Brigadier. The same with hospitals: a requisition from the youngest assistant-surgeon in the service, if he is in charge of an hospital, ought to place within his reach every medicine and comfort in store. Better far that a few thousand pounds worth of stores should be unaccounted for at the end of the war than that one British soldier should lose his life for the want of comforts that are within his reach.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,
J. H. ELPHINSTONE
Logic Elphinstone, Feb. 14

Gold medal adorns spineless holly

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FOLIAGE and stems are the strong features of the Royal Horticultural Society's flower show which opened at Westminster yesterday.

A selection of plant material from High Beeches Garden, Handcross, West Sussex, includes an eye-catching barberry, *Berberis thunbergii*, with orange-red stems, contrasting with the grey-green foliage and brown cones of the Atlas cedar, *Cedrus atlantica glauca*. Unusual evergreen oaks are also featured: *Quercus my*

Australia gives the Queen a royal welcome

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN SYDNEY

"THERE'S Queenie. Lovely old dear," came a whooping cry from the crowd as Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh emerged from their jumbo jet yesterday evening at Sydney's international airport.

The uncommonly intimate and somewhat raucous greeting prompted a momentary arching of the royal eyebrows, but the crowd of thousands, some of whom had been waiting in sweltering heat for more than two hours, brandished Union Jacks and Australian flags and were rewarded with graceful smiles and waves.

The royal couple are in Australia for a seven-day visit to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of Sydney and to meet the new prime minister, Paul Keating, who ousted Bob Hawke, the Labour party leader, in December.

The Queen, who emerged after her long-haul flight from London looking remarkably fresh in a snappy tomato-red suit and hat, had the local police on their toes

within minutes as she ventured out to shake hands with some of her admirers and accept bunches of flowers. Two women struggled to hold a large "We love you, Liz" banner, which was billowing in the hot wind like a spinnaker, and a cluster of sunburned young surfers, normally found on Bondi Beach, bounced up and down like pogo sticks, their enthusiastic cheers merging into one long sustained "Yeah!" as the Queen walked coolly past.

"I think she's just terrific. My grandmother taught me to curtsey in case I ever got to meet the Queen," said one onlooker, Teresa Bennett, whose energetic curtsies yesterday, alas, went unnoticed.

"She's just as much our Queen as yours," announced one, Liang Li, proudly waving his Australian flag as the Queen's Rolls Royce rolled silently past. Mr Li was born in China, moved to Hong Kong 20 years ago and emigrated to Australia in 1989. Known in white Australian circles as a "New Austra-



G'day: Australians are happy to greet the Queen again, on her 12th visit to the country

lian", he and his fellow immigrants form one of the strongest cores of support for the monarchy in a country where the tide of republicanism is on the rise.

The Queen's visit comes just as the public debate is

hotting up. Last month, Mr Keating proposed that Australia drop the Union Jack from the corner of its national flag, leaving the stars of the Southern Cross. Some have called for the inclusion of a kangaroo on the flag.

On her tour of Sydney, Dubbo, Canberra and Adelaide, the Queen will no doubt be scrupulously shielded from all the heated debate and controversy. She has shrewdly decided to devote much of her time to meeting

Royal anomaly, page 14

Who dares... plays the SAS at rugby

BY JOE JOSEPH

IF YOU happen to attend this year's final of the Schweppes Army Rugby Challenge Cup, don't be too surprised if one of the teams takes the field in balaclavas, sets off smoke bombs to shroud its set-piece moves and shuns up the goal posts to gain a look-out when their side is kicking a penalty. That'll be the SAS.

The only trouble is that the SAS are so well trained in stealing behind enemy lines to cut off supply routes that they might find themselves annoying the referee during scrums by persistently going round the wrong side of the ball.

Nobody is letting on whether or where this year's final against 7 Para will be played, or even if it will include a rare appearance by members of the Special Air Service Regiment, camouflaged or not. Officially the opposing team is known only, rather coyly, as "Troops Hereford". The SAS

is based in Hereford, but the army is silent on any link.

There are whispers that, to retain their anonymity, the Gulf war heroes will be entered on the team sheet as a squad of 15 Disney characters, including several Mickey Mouses and Donald Ducks. Spectators will not be allowed to take photographs.

"The final will be very secure indeed," was the only comment from the SAS Regiment's headquarters in Hereford. "You know I can't tell you any more."

The Hereford troops are not known for their rugby prowess. Their semi-final victory was described by one spectator as being the result of 15 individuals who simply refused to be defeated.

Brawn-fanciers might like to bet on the SAS side. Of course, there is no guarantee that bookies will pay up for a team that does not officially exist.

Reynolds call on abortion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 prevented an individual travelling abroad for purposes that were entirely legal in a foreign jurisdiction. "I do not believe that the great majority of people who voted to protect the life of the unborn were voting to inflict such pain and heartbreak on a 14-year-old girl and her family," he said.

Bernadette Bonner, of the Family Solidarity group, expressed deep sympathy for the girl. However, she said in a radio interview: "Either you believe in the right to life or you don't. The circumstances of one conception is no argument in the Russian leadership."

Russian navy chiefs said they would protest to Washington about the incident, which they claimed occurred off northern Russia. But the Pentagon said the collision happened in international waters. The Baton Rouge, he said, was cruising at per-

fective speed when it hit the surface of the Commonwealth of Independent States, although all the submarines in that area are Russian. The class of Russian submarine involved in the collision has not been revealed. The boat, which was carrying torpedoes, was reported to have been at 72ft on a training mission when it began to surface.

Nuclear submarines collide

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 mile territorial limit. This was strongly denied by the Pentagon. James Baker, the US secretary of state, informed Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, of the collision during his visit to Moscow on Monday.

The Baton Rouge, an attack submarine armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles, was not seriously damaged and there were no reported injuries to the crew. The Russian boat was part of the Northern fleet, based at Murmansk.

According to the Interfax news agency, Russian Admiral Ivan Kapitans said: "The fact that a foreign submarine secretly operated in our territorial waters arouses legitimate concern in the Russian leadership."

Russian navy chiefs said they would protest to Washington about the incident, which they claimed occurred off northern Russia. But the Pentagon said the collision happened in international waters. The Baton Rouge, he said, was cruising at per-

fective speed when it hit the surface of the Commonwealth of Independent States, although all the submarines in that area are Russian. The class of Russian submarine involved in the collision has not been revealed. The boat, which was carrying torpedoes, was reported to have been at 72ft on a training mission when it began to surface.

Village basks in glory

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 assorted fellow townsmen gather in the hotel's ballroom shortly before midnight. As the clock strikes, each enters his own individual booth, marks his papers and the result is announced within ten minutes. A few hours later, the rest of New Hampshire voters wake, hear the result and wonder whether to change their vote.

Dixville Notch revels in its power. There has been a 100 per cent turnout every year since 1964, when it conclusively saw off other small New

Battered Bush, page 12

Political sketch

A foot soldier's famous last stand

Military historians record only the famous battles of a campaign: the movement of weapons, the deployment of weapons. Yet in any war there are a million tales of a more personal kind. Beneath the noise of battle, and no less poignant for being unsung, small but intense human dramas are played out amid the anonymity of war.

Take Mrs Sylvia Heal MP, and varicose veins. Her part yesterday afternoon in the great 1992 election campaign was to ask a routine little question about a routine little operation. Routine, that is, to you and me. But to Mrs Heal? Anything but. For her this was the end of the road: the last post, the lap of honour, the final question.

Sylvia Heal (Lab, Mid Staffordshire) is what we call a poll tax baby — one of a little crop of opposition MPs elected for normally Tory seats at by-elections held when Mrs Thatcher and her poll tax were at the zenith of their unpopularity. Along with Mrs Heal, other famous poll tax babies are John W Smith (Lab, Vale of Glamorgan) and David Bellotti (Lib Dem, Eastbourne).

Mike Carr (Lab, Ribble Valley) and Huw Edwards (Lab, Monmouth) were elected just after the Thatcher sunset, but while an angry glow hung in the sky, Nicol Stephen (Lab Dem, Kincardine & Dee) is more of a hospitals out-patient.

These babies, like war babies, are here only because of the unusual circumstances of their conception. But, unlike war babies, by-election babies often perish. Begotten upon a local flood, the tidal wave of a general election sweeps them away.

Sylvia Heal has done well in her short time. Elevated to the front bench, she became an opposition health spokesman. Thus it was that she found herself, yesterday, at the dispatch box for question 11 to the health secretary.

It was by providence alone that the question was even reached. In the fractious pre-election atmosphere of the chamber these days, Commons traffic is jammed. The House had been held up by thick ideological fog around GP funding, on question 1, and a couple of backbenchers jack-knifed at question 2 on health services in London. Further delays

were caused by party-political roadworks at question 3 on organ transplants, and intensive point-scoring on questions 4 to 10. It began to seem that 3.15 pm — and PM's questions — would arrive before question 11 did: a minor tragedy.

Why? Question 11 was the only reachable question that Robin Cook (Labour's principal health spokesman) had asked Mrs Heal to handle. Perhaps Cook (majority: 11,105) had forgotten what an important day this was for her? Or perhaps it was just that none of the issues raised on questions 1 to 10 was among her special subjects: Mrs Heal had been given varicose veins to look after, and for varicose veins Mrs Heal was obliged to wait.

Worse, assuming there is an election on April 9, these were the very last health questions of this parliament. The next are scheduled for Tuesday March 17, days after the House would be dissolved for an April 9 poll. Mrs Heal's last chance, then, to stand at the opposition dispatch box and shout: In a sense the whole of Mid Staffs's last chance, perhaps this century, to be represented from the front bench by a Labour spokesman? Had question 11 not been reached, it would have been a melancholy thing.

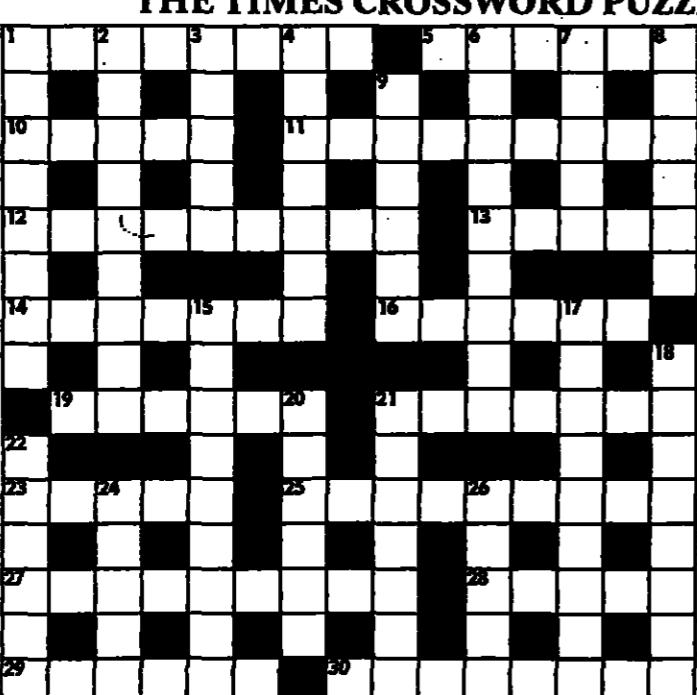
Happily, her moment arrived. Cecil Franks (C, Barrow & Furness; majority 3,927) asked about waiting lists. William Walgrave replied that these were shorter than ever. Mrs Heal rose. She had figures for varicose vein operations at Whips Cross. She gave them. It was well done.

I suppose there are people who would regret going out on such a swan-song. A Gladstone, a Churchill or a Nye Bevan would not have viewed the figures for varicose vein operations at Whips Cross as the right note on which to end a career of service to the nation. They had grander themes to celebrate. But, for Mrs Heal, varicose veins were all she had.

And besides, how can we be sure she will not be back? If she and Cecil Franks now waltz together, from the stage, only to return for a glorious reprise in a future parliament, what a footnote to their biographies this sketch may be.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,845



ACROSS

- 1 Cook able to hold carrier for shopping (8).
- 5 Gamble on large return could keep one in suspense (6).
- 10 Some pages may be so exempted from censorship (5).
- 11 Arrive with fresh request for admission (4,5).
- 12 I want to go on leave for not working (9).
- 13 Highland feature taken to heart by poet (5).
- 14 Renew the tenancy — free! (7).
- 16 Selfish individual, say, is conspicuous in the scriptures (6).
- 19 Arrangements to stay on the outskirts of Surrey (6).
- 21 Develop, for example, back land (7).
- 23 Some exotic horticulture producing a divine flower (5).
- 24 Touching offer (6).
- 25 Managed return to share account (9).
- 27 For each drink, note, use filter (9).
- 28 Old hat with sort of shirt lining has style (5).
- 29 Testing hearing (6).
- 30 Decoys retreating army land divisions (8).
- 31 Spring, with an extremely rainy March (8).
- 32 Last in Knesset to behave wholly in a diplomatic way? (9).
- 33 Swing cat — it's a superior room (8).
- 34 A writer's attribute (7).
- 35 Take responsibility for debts without interest (9).
- 36 Money commonly raised, reportedly (5).
- 37 National motorways (7).
- 38 Block causing elevated motorway deep trouble (6).
- 39 For No. Ten a new P.M. (9).
- 40 A number perhaps sit around in firm (9).
- 41 Parsony puts girl in difficulty (8).
- 42 A handy book (6).
- 43 Fellow carrying weapon in jacker, perhaps (7).
- 44 Sticker to permit entry by one member (6).
- 45 Writer of an annual, it may be said (5).
- 46 On the move in a prison (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,844

- TRAFFIC BUGABOO (11)
- YNAEELIEU (10)
- PETULANCE VALET (10)
- ILLTELLW (9)
- SIGMAR RECONDITE (11)
- TEBELNJI (9)
- UNCOMPROMISING (12)
- OUIDONH (9)
- BLOWTHEWHISTLE (11)
- JUCOTAW (9)
- EASTICHEAPAGREE (12)
- CITAPHOGA (9)
- THIRDTAINTLES (9)
- ONEENESE (9)
- RIGHTONGIRASOL (11)

The Eliminator puzzle, which competitors for the Bristol and London A and B finals of The Times InterCity Crossword Championship must attempt, appears tomorrow.

Answers to page 16

- PIG LEAD a. A mean play at bridge
- b. A hog's lead
- c. Part of a freight load
- FORMIRKEN a. To mark
- b. To mark
- c. To mark
- d. To mark
- e. Teacher's boredom
- PARNEL a. A marzipan bun
- b. A priest's mistress
- c. To win a bid
- DINKEY a. A small locomotive
- b. A busy donkey
- c. A cellar key

Answers on page 16

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Belfast 2.21 0.29 0.51

Birmingham 2.21 0.29 0.51

Cardiff 2.21 0.29 0.51

Edinburgh 2.21 0.29 0.51

Glasgow 2.21 0.29 0.51

London 2.21 0.29 0.51

Nottingham 2.21 0.29 0.51

Sheffield 2.21 0.29 0.51

Southampton 2.21 0.29 0.51

Swindon 2.21 0.29 0.51

Wales 2.21 0.29 0.51

Warrington 2.21 0.29 0.51

Worcester 2.21 0.29 0.51

Yarmouth 2.21 0.29 0.51

Zeebrugge 2.21 0.

Royal takes partners for single market

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Insurance and two continental groups have agreed to a £177 million joint venture in one of the industry's most visible responses yet to the single European market and the opening up of eastern Europe.

Royal, Fondiaria of Italy, and Aachener und Münchener Betreibungen, the German insurer, will be joint and equal shareholders in a Luxembourg holding group, European Partners for Insurance Cooperation (Epic). Epic will operate throughout Europe other than in the partners' home territories, and will eventually take over their non-domestic business. At present, the three companies' non-domestic European premium income totals £450 million.

The deal is likely to be scrutinised by the European Commission, but Royal expects it to be a matter of routine. Roy Randall, head of corporate relations for Royal, said: "We have had discussions with the commission. It has to be put forward [for commission review] but we can say we don't expect any hurdles."

The commission refused to comment. "It has not been notified so far," a spokesman said. "We can't say anything for the moment."

Legal experts said a commission enquiry could well find in favour of a link-up.

"It depends on the structure (of the venture), but this looks like the sort of thing the commission is likely to be more in favour of," said John Ratiff, from the EC offices of Stanbrook and Hooper, the lawyers. "It's a natural consolidation that would help create a single market in insurance."

As part of the deal, AMB and Fondiaria will put £59 million each into Epic. Royal will sell Rodutch, its Dutch subsidiary, whose principal asset is the Royal Nederland insurance group, to the Epic consortium for £205 million, and will also sell Royal Leven, a Dutch life insurer, to Rodutch for £20 million.

The net receipts for Royal amount to £166 million, equivalent to the gross receipts less its £59 million stake in Epic. Royal said yesterday that the net receipts would be used to bring down gearing by 11 percentage points from a present level

thought to be around 33 per cent. To fund the purchase of Royal's Dutch subsidiaries, Epic will need to raise a further £34 million in capital markets.

Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Royal, said the deal amounted to "a more comprehensive European coverage than we could achieve on our own".

It is thought that one of Epic's main markets for expansion will be eastern Europe. Wolf-Dieter Baumgard, AMB's managing director, said that "even for a group of our size it is easier and better to deal with the tasks facing us not only in the increasingly concentrating west European markets but also in the newly opening market of eastern Europe". Alfonso Scarpa, Fondiaria's managing director, said: "This operation confirms that co-operation is more productive than takeover."

Apart from eastern Europe, which the three companies regard as a potentially lucrative market, the harmonisation of European Community insurance laws is another incentive to closer co-operation.

The deal follows several months of negotiations and comes amid uncertainty surrounding AMB. Last year Royal sold its 18.8 per cent stake in the German company to Crédit Suisse. And Assurances Générales de France, the state-owned French insurance group, has built up a 25 per cent stake in AMB, but can vote only a small part of its holding because AMB's management has refused to register recent share purchases. Such refusal is permissible under German law, although it is widely regarded, even inside Germany, as an archaic way to deal with an unwelcome shareholder.

There has been some speculation in Germany that a compromise agreement could be worked out. AGF has also shown interest in taking part in the joint venture.

On the London stock market, shares in Royal closed up 2p at 232p.

amid market satisfaction over the price it will receive for Rodutch. The British company has been heavily hit by the recession and especially by mortgage indemnity losses.



Positive shrinking: Ashtead, the plant hire group, led by Peter Lewis, chairman, right, and George Burnett, managing director, say the effect of recession on its rivals is good news for the company. But Ashtead is not unscathed. Interim pre-tax profits were £1.5 million (£2.5 million). The payout stays at 1.1pTempus, page 22

Nestlé and Indosuez agree over cheese bid

FROM REUTER IN PARIS

NESTLE and the Cie de Suez arm of Banque Indosuez have agreed that Crédit Agricole should have important powers over the Caves de Roquefort cheese manufacturer if their joint bid for control of Roquefort's parent, Source Perrier, is successful.

Nestlé and Indosuez are bidding Fr1.475 a share for all of Perrier.

Nestlé said it was convinced that existing agreements covering milk sold to

group, Nestlé and Indosuez said.

Nestlé has indicated that cheese is not part of its development strategy and that Caves de Roquefort could eventually be sold.

In 1991, Perrier had consolidated turnover of Fr13.56 billion, including Fr1.6 billion at Caves de Roquefort.

In the same notice, Nestlé and Indosuez confirmed that they have agreed to sell Perrier's Volvic still water business to BSN, the French food group, for one fifth of the market capitalisation of Perrier, plus fees and commissions stemming from the takeover bid for Perrier.

The Fr1.475-per-share bid for Perrier implied a market capitalisation of Fr13.25 billion, yielding a value of Fr2.65 billion for Volvic, and including fees and commissions.

Nestlé and Indosuez said the price of Volvic would be adjusted to take into account the difference between Volvic's net debt and one fifth of the Perrier group's debt.

If their bid succeeded, Nestlé and Indosuez said that Perrier shares could be withdrawn from the Paris bourse.

The bidders revealed that between them and their joint subsidiary, Demilac, they hold 71,500 shares in Perrier.

Lowndes to manage US tunnel insurance

BY MICHAEL TATE
CITY EDITOR

A BRITISH firm has won the contract to manage the insurance cover for the \$5 billion Boston Harbour Tunnel.

Lowndes Lambert Construction, a division of Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings, working with a Boston broker, said that it had been appointed to manage the cover for the central artery and tunnel project.

Known as the "big dig", the project involves the construction of 3.5 miles of tunnels and 2.3 miles of bridges for a ten-lane highway with feeder roads to relieve traffic congestion in Boston city centre. The work is expected to cost \$5.025 billion over nine years and generate 15,000 jobs.

The insurance cover to be arranged for the overall project will be primarily underwritten in America, but with significant participation from Lloyd's of London and other international markets.

The \$500 million aviation liability cover for the work around Boston's Logan airport will be placed with Lloyd's, as will much of the marine-related risk cover. Specialised "wrap-up" policies are envisaged for the builder's risk, general liability, marine and aviation liability and worker's compensation insurance.

BUSINESS ROUND UP

Stern group leads race for Maxwell stake

GRUNER & Jahr, the German publisher of *Stern* magazine, is the front-runner to buy the half share it does not own in an East Berlin newspaper group from the private interests of Robert Maxwell, after a breakdown in talks with a third party, the owner of *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Gruner and the Robert Maxwell Group, a Maxwell private firm, each have 50 per cent of Berliner Verlag, the publisher of *Berliner Zeitung* and *Berliner Kurier*.

Gruner has first say over the shares, but it has been warned by the Bundeskartellamt, Germany's cartel agency, to find a partner in order to stay within anti-trust rules. A Gruner & Jahr spokeswoman said Süddeutscher Verlag pulled out because the company did not want to inherit Maxwell's legal status in Berliner Verlag.

Howard in the red

HOWARD Holdings, the housebuilding and plant hire company, suffered a pre-tax loss of £211,248 (£154,765 profit) in the six months to end-October. Once again, there is no interim dividend. Last August, the group unveiled a taxable deficit of £495,000. Turnover fell to £2.71 million (£3.94 million), and the company said prospects for improvement depend on the national economy. There is a 0.69p loss per share (0.4p earnings). The shares lost 1p to 13½p.

Norex profits fall

NOREX, the shipping and insurance broker, said its results had been affected by a writedown in the book value of small vessels, forced by the depressed state of the shipping market. The group made pre-tax profit of £2.52 million for the six months to end-December, down from £3.5 million. Turnover fell from £17.8 million to £4.67 million, largely due to the sale of Norgulf Shipping last year. Earnings per share fell from 14.67p to 6.09p. There is again no interim dividend.

TR Pacific pays extra

SHAREHOLDERS in TR Pacific Trust are to collect a special dividend of 0.45p on top of a maintained annual dividend of 0.25p. The board says the payment is necessary to comply with regulations that require investment trusts to distribute 85 per cent of their net income. The trust experienced an exceptional surge in pre-tax revenue after reducing its borrowing during the Gulf war. Net asset value advanced by 20.7 per cent from 66.19p to 79.92p a share in 1991. Earnings almost doubled from 0.528p to 1.039p.

Asset value climbs

THE net asset value at Scottish Eastern Investment Trust, the investment trust managed by Martin Currie, rose 23 per cent from 56.5p to 69.5p a share over the year to end-January. This compares with a rise of 18.5 per cent in the FT All-share index over the same period. Pre-tax revenue dipped from £12.7 million to £12.5 million, as total revenue declined marginally to £19.9 million (£20.3 million). Earnings per share were static at 1.42p. The final dividend improves from 0.92p to 0.96p, making 1.42p (1.35p).

Balancing the menu

CHARTERED Accountants' Hall in the City is joining a long list of City livery halls to be prohibited from outside functions to help spread the overheads. The institute has called in Leith's, the upmarket catering company, to provide for all functions at the hall, specifically to attract more outside functions in the evenings and at weekends. The restaurant, known to generations of young accountants, is also being thrown open to the public. The institute insists that members will still have priority.

Racial links with US

RACAL has signed a joint marketing agreement to sell its data communications and services to the users of BellSouth's telephone network in America. BellSouth, which provides a local telephone service to 17.5 million subscribers, will market its private-line and switched-data services in conjunction with Racial-Datocom's systems. Racial said the agreement would offer customers in nine states in the South-East complete end-to-end network systems and services from a single source.

Blue Circle does a deal in Norway

BY MARTIN WALLER

BLUE Circle Industries, the biggest cement producer in Britain, has invested £1.3 million in a joint venture with Selvag Group, a large Norwegian housebuilder, to export cement to Norway.

The company has also paid £2.8 million for the assets of an Italian sanitaryware maker, bought from the liquidator in a competitive tender.

Blue Circle expects to ship about 100,000 tonnes of cement from its Northfleet works on the Thames estuary to two new purpose-built terminals in Oslo and Stavanger owned by the joint venture, in which it will take a 49 per cent holding.

Britain's second-biggest cement producer, Castle Cement, which is Scandinavian-owned, currently ships some cement from Scandinavia into Britain.

The Italian purchase, Simi, has a plant 40 miles from the existing sanitaryware factory north of Venice of Blue Circle's Italian business, Ceramica Dolomite. About three quarters of Simi's output goes to the Italian market and the rest to other countries in the European Community.

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Owners Group adds airbuses

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

OWNERS Abroad Group, Britain's second largest package holiday and aircraft group, is expanding its Air 2000 charter airline fleet by leasing four new Airbus A320 aircraft.

The group, where Howard Klein, the chairman, is due to report final results today, has decided to take on the Airbus A320 after increased demand from its tour operating and aviation divisions, as well as from independent tour operators.

The upsurge in demand has been for aircraft smaller than Air 2000's existing fleet of 15 Boeing 757s, which have 233 seats each. The new Airbus A320, with 179 seats, will be able to operate from the smaller provincial airports of Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, East Midlands and

Stansted. They will also open up some new routes. The new aircraft will be taken on nine-year operating leases from ORIX Aviation Systems of Dublin.

Two of the aircraft will be delivered to Air 2000 by May 1, for use during this year's

summer season, with the remaining two due to come into service next year. More than 250 jobs will be created by the addition of a second aircraft type to the Air 2000 fleet.

All four aircraft will be powered by International Aero Engine's latest V2500 engines. Rolls-Royce is a partner in the IAE consortium.

Julie Farrar, at County NatWest WoodMac, said: "It looks like a very good leasing deal and it's a sign that the demand is there. It's a good omen."

County forecasts a jump in

today's final pre-tax profits to £30.5 million (£15.3 million),

reflecting a recovery from the depressed Gulf war trading period and increased market share, after the collapse of ILG. Owners shares rose 2½p to 120p.

US politics fail to halt trade talks

BY COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

NEGOTIATORS from America, Canada and Mexico have made clear that they will push for a North American free trade zone, regardless of the American presidential elections and unresolved differences between Washington and Ottawa.

The planned North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) would provide America with a fall-back arrangement if the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade's Uruguay Round talks on world trade failed.

Julius Katz, the American delegation leader, responded yesterday to concern that the political agenda in America would hold up a deal. He said there had been no decision not to proceed with the agreement this year. The Bush administration earlier voiced the hope that a world trade accord and Nafta would be put to Congress for approval early this year.

Canada has a bilateral free trade

pact with America, but American import duty on Canadian-built Japanese cars has caused disagreement. Nevertheless, the Canadian delegation said it did not intend to walk out of the Nafta talks. Instead, lessons from the America-Canada deal would be used to help formulate the continent-wide agreement. Despite the public pledges to progress on an agreement, delegates were privately indicating that Nafta could be put on hold for at least a year, if this week's meeting produced no tangible result.

Japan, meanwhile, has called for a meeting to amend the final draft for a Uruguay Round accord. He said the revised offer tabled at the end of last week aroused some concern because it seemed to contain new restrictions, especially on cross-border banking and investment services.

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the European Commission, criticised Japan's latest offer on liberalising its services sector under the Uruguay Round. He said the revised offer tabled at the end of last week aroused some concern because it seemed to contain new restrictions, especially on cross-border banking and investment services.

Sir Leon, on a visit to Japan, said he would seek to encourage the development of a spirit of free competition and open financial markets in Japan.

Further writedowns are expected after an external valuation, now in progress. Last October, Johnstone reported first-half pre-tax profits of £1.25 million, 56 per cent down on the first half of 1990.

THE TIMES

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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19
BUSINESS ROUND UP
group leads race
Maxwell stake

Germany slips into current deficit

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY'S current account was in the red by DM 34.2 billion in 1991, according to provisional Bundesbank data. It was the first deficit since the recession of 1981.

This is the latest of a string of gloomy economic signals and came only a day after the Bundesbank said that gross national product in the fourth quarter of 1991 had fallen by 0.5 per cent. That was the third successive quarterly fall in output thus confirming the standard definition of a recession.

The deficit reflects the import surge after unification, and accompanies a collapse of western Germany's trade surplus, which has plummeted by 80.7 per cent. However, sales in eastern Germany contributed about 30 per cent of that surplus, thereby masking the extent of the decline.

America, Japan, France and Britain were the main beneficiaries of the German import surge. Britain's trade deficit with Germany narrowed from DM 17.9 billion

to DM 8.1 billion, and the figures for France are similar. Germany even recorded a DM 1.2 billion trade deficit with America after a 1990 surplus of DM 8.3 billion, while Japan increased its surplus from DM 16.9 billion to DM 23.2 billion.

There was better news from the federal statistics office, which revised down January's annual inflation figure from 4.1 to 4 per cent, compared with 4.2 per cent in December.

Egon Hölder, president of the office, said underlying inflation was only 3.1 per cent, after indirect tax rises in 1991 were stripped out. That compares with 2.7 per cent a year earlier. The data suggest that the rise in inflation has been policy-induced, and that domestic demand and wage rates have played secondary roles.

On a monthly basis, January inflation was up by 0.4 per cent from December, reflecting the usual beginning-of-year price rises. Helmut Schlesinger, president of the Bundesbank, said recently

that end-of-year inflation would show "three ahead of the decimal point", but parliament's recent approval of an increase in value added tax by 1 percentage point, to 15 per cent from January 1993, will add about 0.6 of a percentage point from next year.

Ottmar Issing, a member of the Bundesbank central council, appeared to give warning of a rise in January's M3 money supply when he said yesterday that "one should not overvalue monthly data".

The Bundesbank is expected to publish the January data this week or early next. Over the past few months, M3 has risen by close to 10 per cent on an annual basis, compared with a Bundesbank target range of 3.5 to 5.5 per cent.

French industrial production fell by a seasonally adjusted 0.9 per cent in December. The statistical institute said it was possible that fourth-quarter GDP growth was lower than the forecast 0.6 per cent.



Painful two years: Antony Hichens, chairman

US arm of TNT suffers in recession

Bond says creditors' sums are wrong

ALAN Bond, the Australian businessman, has won another two weeks to fight a US\$194 million bankruptcy notice.

Mr Bond, whose Aus\$10 billion (£4.25 billion) empire began to crumble under a mass of debt two years ago, is challenging the validity of the notice, issued by three banks led by Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp and handed to him in December. He has until March 2 to comply.

If Mr Bond fails to pay the banks — he has the choice of doing so in American or Australian dollars — they can apply for the appointment of a trustee to take over his assets.

The banks began bankruptcy proceedings against the former chairman of Bond Corp Holdings last September. On March 2, Federal Court judge Trevor Moring will hear Mr Bond's challenge to the notice.

Bernard Coates, Mr Bond's lawyer, yesterday told the court that the exchange rate used by the banks to calculate the Australian dollar amount was incorrect, invalidating the order. The US\$194 million was a personal guarantee by Mr Bond on a US\$340 million loan to his private company, Dalhold Investments, to fund development of the Greenvale nickel mine in Queensland.

Dalhold was put into liquidation last July.

Investors advised to avoid Ratners

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH



RATNERS Group shares are potentially valueless and should be avoided, according to a report by Paul Deacon, retail analyst at Goldman Sachs.

Mr Deacon, who has been researching the company for several months, says Britain's largest jeweller group should survive its current difficulties but that everything hangs on Christmas this year. Ratners' shares stand at 18p.

Most of Ratners' "debt" is in the form of preference shares and Mr Deacon says accumulated preference dividends, which have to be paid before the group can resume the payment of ordinary dividends, mean that an earnings recovery is some way off.

He adds: "This, together with the risk of equity dilution, or worse, makes the ordinary shares highly speculative and potentially valueless."

Mr Deacon recommends that committed investors should switch into the two convertible preference share issues, which are trading at 17 per cent of face value, or the 4 per cent Euroconvertible bond, which is yielding 9.8 per cent annualised to the October put option. Although speculative, these instruments could represent good value if Ratners manages a modest reduction in losses, squeezes working capital and sells some assets.

He believes the UK arm of Ratners, whose chief executive is Gerald Ratner, should eventually be able to restore

Ratners' difficulties profits before tax and interest to about £45 million, assuming the strategic problems are addressed and there is no serious problem with the Eurobond, the redemption of which will cost £59 million in October this year.

Mr Deacon says Kay Jewelers, the American operation, bought in 1990, should recover more quickly than the UK as it does not have the same strategic problems. He sees American profits before tax and interest bouncing back to about £50 million.

However, total group pre-tax profits of £75 million may not come about until 1995-96. "Although this would imply around 7.8p of earnings, accumulated preference dividends could wipe most of this out," Mr Deacon adds.

Unless there is a substantial resurgence in profitability, the question of capital structure will have to be tackled, a move that, he says, would almost certainly involve dilution for equity holders.

Troubled Lovell reaches pact with its banks

By MATTHEW BOND

VJ Lovell, the contractor and housebuilder, has reached an agreement with its banks that ensures the group's banking facilities will remain in place at least until the end of the year.

Two months ago, Lovell confirmed it had breached two banking covenants and was in talks with its banks, led by Barclays.

Lovell's total debt is about £106 million, if more than £40 million of off-balance-sheet borrowings are included. Having been required to include £61.5 million of provisions in December's final results, Lovell admitted it had breached its net worth covenant. The interest cover covenant had also been breached.

Under the new agreement, the company's facilities will be extended without covenant, but on a fully secured basis. Robert Sellier, Lovell's chief executive, said the banks had commissioned a report to examine whether Lovell's assets offered sufficient security for the borrowings. "That report showed

there was substantial security — certainly enough to satisfy them." He said the company would aim to negotiate new covenants for its borrowings at the end of the year.

Mr Sellier said there was no formal requirement for Lovell to make disposals to reduce its debts. "We have not been asked to make asset disposals, but we have said to the banks that if we can sensibly dispose of assets at better than fire-sale prices, we are quite prepared to do so."

Lovell shares rose 4p to 25p yesterday.

The new agreement will buy the company more time to sort out its considerable difficulties. In the two years since Lovell failed in an ambitious £167 million bid for Higgs & Hill, Antony Hichens, Lovell's chairman, has reported a series of disappointing results.

The company's withdrawal from residential urban renewal has been particularly painful. Write-offs over the past two years total about £36 million. Falling coffee prices last week forced Colombia to cut the price it pays to growers, drawing protests from farmers. Colombia is the main backer of efforts to negotiate a new International Coffee Agreement. The collapse of the old agreement in 1989 led to a sharp fall in prices.

Colombia seeks talks on prices

FROM REUTER IN CARTAGENA

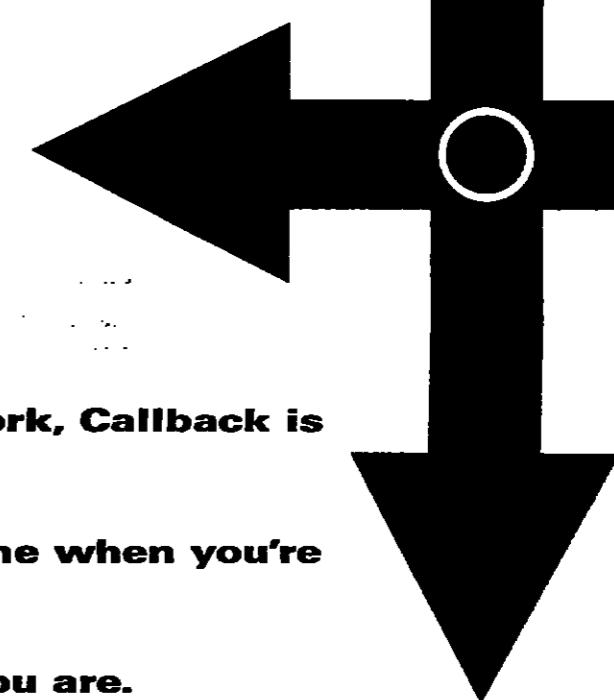
COLOMBIA has called for a world conference on commodities to decide how to tackle a slump in raw materials prices that has badly hit developing nations.

On Monday, Noemi Sanin de Rubio, the Colombian foreign minister, told the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meeting: "All of our countries are being hard hit by the fall in international prices and perhaps by gathering together producers, consumers, marketing companies and other market agents, a coherent international policy can be adopted." She believes the United Nations will convene the conference very soon.

Prices for several commodities, including coffee, cocoa and cotton, have dropped recently, badly affecting developing nations who rely on them for export earnings.

Falling coffee prices last week forced Colombia to cut the price it pays to growers, drawing protests from farmers. Colombia is the main backer of efforts to negotiate a new International Coffee Agreement. The collapse of the old agreement in 1989 led to a sharp fall in prices.

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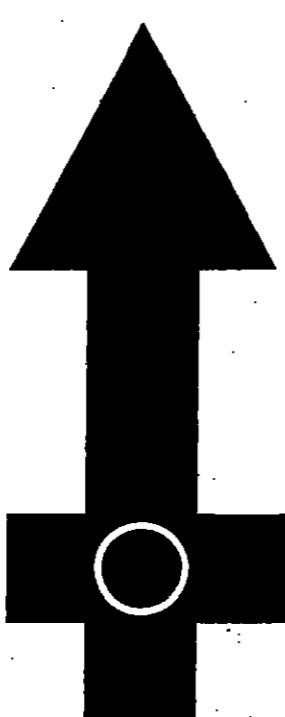
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COMMENT

Redland given a green light

Steetley was putting a brave face on the news yesterday, but it is clear that the twin rulings by the Office of Fair Trading, guided by the trade and industry department, are a bitter blow. Redland's hostile bid will go ahead, if the company can come up with the necessary undertakings. But Steetley's rival joint venture with Tarmac goes to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, a compromise having failed to materialise over weeks of talks between the two companies.

Redland should have no difficulty coming up with a game plan that satisfies the authorities — indeed, the shortlist of proposed sales that emerged not long after the announcement is clearly the outcome of similar weeks of talks and will come as little surprise to the OFT. The only fear for Redland, and it is a faint one, is that one of the third parties being asked for their views will raise an area of potential competition not yet identified in more than two months of deliberations.

Steetley and Tarmac had not set their faces against some sort of deal, but it is clear that the scale of disposals required by the department would have negated the whole point of the merger and wiped out a large chunk of the estimated £10 million of cost savings it offered. The OFT has taken a tough line on the building materials industry at a time when that industry is going through what some claim is the toughest recession in living memory.

The Redland bid will now presumably resume where it left off, on day 39, shortly after next Tuesday, when representations are due in at the OFT. The expectation in the market, reflected by yesterday's sharp jump in the Steetley share price, is that the bid will eventually succeed but it may have to be sweetened a little. Redland, for its part, points out that this has already happened, via a 20p rise in its share price since the bid was announced while prices elsewhere in the sector have been falling. True; but a boost in the cash element would put the matter beyond doubt.

Auditing audits

The debate over the roles of directors and auditors is hotting up before the preliminary report of the Cadbury committee. Further indication of what it might contain comes in the report of a working party of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland. Its suggests listed company directors should state in annual reports their responsibility for the accounts, as well as reviewing internal controls. Audit committees of non-executives should deal with audit matters and all directors should read the auditor's annual report to management. Directors should, via a change in the law, also have an obligation to say if they have the resources to ensure the company is a going concern.

Nigel Macdonald, a vice president of the Scottish institute and chairman of the working party, is at the centre of this debate. He prepared the somewhat notorious paper on the auditors' report for the Auditing Practices Board which appeared to claim much significance for the role of auditors. This turned out to be a useful starting point for the APB's later proposals to hang a series of more useful items on an expanded auditors' report. Mr Macdonald is also a member of the Cadbury committee. If the Scottish institute proposals are any guide, the Cadbury recommendations may be gradualist and offend few. The critical questions will be whether they are enforced quickly and compulsorily and whether the change of form will lead to a change of substance that will provide a more accurate guide to the state of companies' affairs.

The big banks will soon report their worst-ever figures. Neil Bennett says that despite huge write-offs, the worries may be far from over

Over the next two weeks, Britain's banks will display their scars to the investing public. The reporting season for the bank's 1991 profits promises to be the most dismal in the lenders' history.

The unprecedented number of company insolvencies and the rise in unemployment have caused such a surge in bad debts that one or even two banks will again report losses, something unthinkable five years ago. The City has long been expecting bad news from the lenders about their performance in 1991. What it is praying for is some comfort from the banks' chairmen that the worst might finally be over. Even that is far from certain.

The banks, meanwhile, face a basketful of new troubles. The run of losses has so weakened their financial position that many investors worry they will not be able to meet loan demand when the economy begins to recover, and that a long-term "credit crunch" will follow. Worse still, shareholders fear the lenders might be forced to return to the stock market with new rights issues to pay for old mistakes.

The banks' results will be dominated by bad debt provisions. Michael Lever and Alison Deuchars, banking analysts at Smith New Court, estimate that provisions at the five main banks, including Abbey National, will total £5.7 billion. This means that the banks were writing off £650,000 an hour throughout the year.

Domestic provisions are expected to total 2.58 per cent of British lending. This is more than two-and-a-half times higher than the worst figure during the recession in the early Eighties.

The scale of the bad debt provisions will produce a series of anomalies in the banking figures. Lloyds could become Britain's most profitable bank, with profits up to £30 million higher than Barclays, thanks to a strong contribution from its life assurance subsidiary. Even Abbey National, the former building society, might be able to beat Barclays' profits.

National Westminster is destined to fall particularly hard. Only four years ago, it stood ahead of all its peers in profitability and assets. Now it is teetering on the brink of a loss, thanks to heavy provisions in both Britain and America.

Even Natwest's fall is light compared with the dire problems at Midland. City analysts no longer question whether the bank will make a loss; that much is certain. Instead, the debate is over the size of the deficit. If the bank loses more than £70 million, as most analysts expect, it will exhaust its distribu-

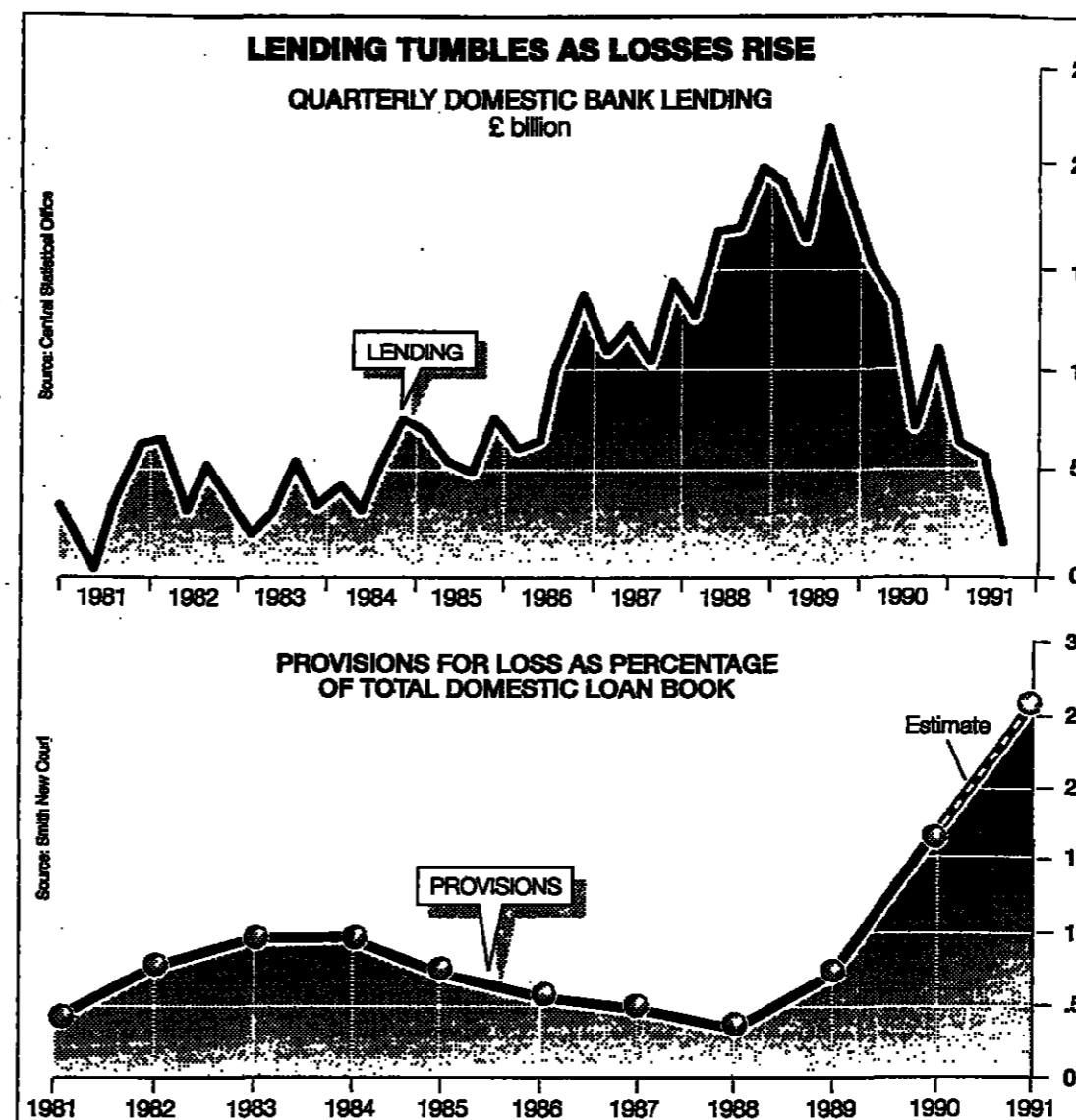


table reserves and be unable to pay a final dividend.

The figures are particularly hard to bear since they will indicate further deterioration in the banks' loan books in the second half of 1991. Six months ago, the City hoped that the worst of the provisions was past, and bank shares surged in response. The collapse of Robert Maxwell's media empire and a continuing procession of receiverships and liquidations ensured this optimism was misplaced.

The prospects for any substantial recovery in 1992 also look slim. Bad debt provisions have a close correlation to the number of company failures. These are at record levels, and still rising, although not as rapidly as in the past two years.

The fall in interest rates has brought much-needed relief to companies in the past year, and their recovery will quicken if the economy starts to improve towards the end of the year. The problem is that both

company failures and the resulting bad debt provisions have historically lagged behind the recovery.

After the last recession, the banks' bad debt provisions peaked in 1984, while corporate insolvencies reached their peak a year later, when the economy was growing rapidly.

The banks argue that in this recession they have been quicker to spot when a customer is in difficulty and provided against their borrowings earlier, so that bad debts will not continue to rise.

The collapse of the Maxwell companies, however, does not inspire confidence about the banks' ability to predict financial troubles before they occur.

The growth in the banks' profits will also be held back by a lack of debt recoveries. In the past, the lenders have been able to grow quickly out of a recession by selling the assets on which they had foreclosed. The proceeds enabled the banks to write back some of the

earlier provisions and boost profits.

This time, however, the prospect for recoveries is slim. Many of the loans the banks made to smaller companies in the late Eighties were unsecured, and the assets of the companies were negligible in any case. As a result, a large proportion of the provisions will become permanent losses.

On the most optimistic forecasts, bad debt provisions might fall by a quarter in the current year, and still be the second highest on record. But even that would be a welcome relief, boosting profits by £1.4 billion.

The turnaround for NatWest should be swifter. A big factor in the bank's poor performance in 1991 was a loss of \$352 million from NatWest Bancorp, its American subsidiary. This should make a small profit in 1992, boosting the group's profits by more than £200 million.

On an optimistic note, the banks have positioned themselves to take full advantage of any fall in bad debts. All of them have implemented intensive cost-cutting programmes. More than 30,000 staff went last year and several hundred unprofitable branches were closed. The long overdue clean-up means all the banks are expected to produce record operating profits before provisions. The improvement will be most dramatic at Midland where Smith New Court estimates operating pro-

fit rose 32 per cent to £979 million. Even so, profits will remain severely depressed this year and next, and this has given rise to fears of a credit crunch, where the banks will be unable to lend, due to a shortage of capital.

At present, the capital ratios of the British banks are among the strongest in the world, and well above the 4 per cent international minimum standard set by the Bank for International Settlements in Basle. While their capital is being eroded by bad debt provisions and property write-downs, weak demand for loans means that asset books are static or even shrinking.

The problem will come when the economy begins to recover and lending demand returns. Nevertheless, it would take a growth in assets of 15 or 20 per cent before most of the banks suffered any noticeable capital shortage, and few analysts expect anywhere near that amount of activity until the middle of the decade.

But the lenders are likely to create a credit crunch of a different type when the borrowers reappear. The current belief among bankers is that they were far too free with credit in the late Eighties, and failed to take proper security or charge adequate rates. They have given notice that this will change. Small companies in particular are already finding it far harder and more expensive to borrow than before. To them this is a credit crunch, whatever the actual cause.

The final obstacle facing the banks is the fall in interest rates, and the prospect that rates will be low long-term now the pound is in the exchange-rate mechanism.

Banks traditionally earn a large proportion of their income from interest-free assets, principally funds in personal current accounts. Smith New Court estimates that these accounted for 22 per cent of income in 1990. But last year, the income came under pressure both from the decline in interest rates and the rising number of customers switching to interest-bearing current accounts. Smith New Court estimates the contribution from interest-free assets fell to 15 per cent last year. The banks, however, have minimised the effect by widening interest margins and increasing account fees, and seem able to withstand the future erosion of this income source.

The past two years have had a profound effect on Britain's banking industry. The devastating rise in bad debt provisions and the resulting losses have shattered the cosy illusion of stability and invulnerability that permeated the clearing houses. The result has been complete upheaval including job cuts and the arrival of new technology on a scale that revolutionised British industry a decade ago. Meanwhile, the easy credit policies of the freewheeling Eighties are a distant, bitter memory.

The banks must show they have learned from their mistakes and are lean and fit enough to take on their strongest rivals in the single European market. Otherwise, the financial tragedy of the past two years will be compounded many times over.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Quartet for one

COMPANY doctor David James, who last week announced that he would be handing over the executive reins at Davies & Newman to an ex-Cathay Pacific executive, has had additional cause for celebration in another sphere. A keen opera and music buff, James, a bachelor, has been subsidising some talented musicians. Not only does he personally annually sponsor a series of musical weekends at the Castle Hotel, Taunton, he has also commissioned a string quartet by Anthony Powers, aged 37, whom he describes as "one of the rising stars of British music." The quartet, Powers' second, was performed for the first time on Saturday in Taunton, by the Lindsay Quartet, and was enthusiastically received by the 180-strong audience. They will perform it again in Sheffield tonight and the BBC made a recording of it on Monday. So enthused is James that he is now planning a London performance of the 25-minute work, and is considering another in New York. "It has four movements, all strictly tonal stuff and I think it is a tremendously exciting work," he says. Undeterred by the £10,000 plus cost, he would now like to commission more work from other musicians.

Close to home

WHEN Michael Heseltine spoke of his Challenger initiative to combat inner city crime at the Chartered Institute of Building's annual dinner at the Guildhall last night, he may have seen a



Royal Insurance Cristal champagne, at £50 a bottle. "They came in here regularly throughout the trial for a sandwich or a vodka," says manager Nigel Dean, "and yes, they did come here for refreshment on Friday. Seelig was the first to leave. Lord Spens stayed the course, but it was the barristers who drank most of the champagne."

Floor show

WHEN Brian Garlick, Commercial Union's unit trust sales manager, sat down on his jacket at the result of attending an unusual religious ceremony, he is telling the truth, but not quite the whole truth. Garlick, who fell off a stool after the ceremony, on to the sawdust-covered floor, was in the company of people like Charlie Phillips, of Fiske & Co., and Alan "the bald eagle" Kemp, once the senior partner of Kemp Mitchell, as they listened intently to the Rev John Cowling, rector of St Olaves Church, Mark Lane, on Monday. The rector, who is also responsible for the spiritual well-being of those employed in the wine trade within the City of London, was at Eatons at the Minster, a new wine bar in Mincing Lane, to bless the bar, originally part of the interior of Safoord Cathedral. "Because we are part of the Minster development, we thought it would be appropriate to have an ecclesiastical theme throughout the wine bar," says Chris Haynes, Eatons' managing director. "It's a mix of Eatons, an up-market caterer, with, so far, one wine bar. Others are planned."

Return trip

Roger Seelig, spotted at Terence Conran's new restaurant, Le Pont de la Tour, on Thursday, was again out celebrating on Friday. Seelig, accompanied by his former co-defendant Lord Spens and several of their defence barristers, turned up at the Balls Brothers wine bar in Hays Galleria, near Southwark Crown Court, in the afternoon, and stayed for more than an hour. They all — save Lord Spens, who can't stand the stuff and stuck resolutely to his customary vodka and

CAROL LEONARD

Economy needs frost of recession

From Dr Des Keenan

Sir, Why is there so much lamentation over the recession? Recessions are as beneficial to economies as winters are to gardens.

The capitalist system is not an unstable one but an oscillating one. Its stability has proved immune to wars, bubbles, speculations, frauds, and ever-rising populations. It brought undreamt-of prosperity to millions.

Bonds, like spring, promote new enterprises. Recessions weed out the unfit and sicker firms. Efficiency and adaptability are maximised: costiness and restrictions minimised. Labour was not tied up unprofitably.

The disadvantages of a free capitalist economy were remarked on. A weaver could be employed fully one year, and not at all the next. Attempts were made to flatten the recessions as well.

Yours sincerely,
DES KEENAN,
129 Bluebird Walk,
Chalk Hill Road,
Wembley Park,
Middlesex.

British is not best
From Mr Joris F. W. van Hees
Sir, Roy Jenkins is still very proud to be British and the British Institute of Management is not? I did not read in Mr Jenkins' letter (February 12) any reason why they took the decision to drop the word "British". I only know that British Leyland did so years ago, and that may have "saved" the company. Their products and their name were so bad that nobody on the Continent would ever buy such a British mis-product.

I come from Holland and back home nobody will ever buy British products if they do not really have to. We take a look to the DIN-Norm (German) and that gives us a guarantee, more or less. Do you ever see an Austin on the European highways? Never!

It is Mr Jenkins's pleasure to show his French friends that

many British A roads are better than their motorways. Well, Mr Jenkins, then I really do not know where you have been.

The French "peages" are among the best highways in the world: top quality roads that at least have gas stations, parking places, clean picnic areas, toilets etc. All things you can only dream of. Mr Jenkins is also proud to hear an Italian man, who speaks English to a Russian, find himself at a disadvantage to his British competitor. How pathetic! Well, at least this Italian man does speak another language, while most of the British are too lazy for that and too arrogant, because the rest of the world has to speak English.

It is nice to be proud of being British but sometimes it really helps when you drop the word "British".

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN W. DIXON,
3 Dovecote,
Middle Rasen,
Lincolnshire.

Lloyd's: insiders and outsiders

From Mr Piers Gibson

Sir, Mr David Coleridge reacts with understandable fury to the outrageous accusation that "working" or insider names retain the best syndicates for themselves, dumping the outsiders into business where risk reward ratios are less attractive to those in the know.

Could he perhaps deal with those suspicions by publishing comprehensive information on the ratios of insider to outsider names within the capacity of each syndicate. The rest of us could then observe the circumstances of syndicates in which the ratio deviates wildly from the overall market average, in either direction.

Yours sincerely,
PIERS GIBSON,
25 Summer Place,
SW7.

"The Storks", Fairmile Lane,
Cobham, Surrey.

From Mr B. W. Dixon FIAC, AMBI

Sir, As an associate member of The British Institute of Management I am in full agreement with Roy Jenkins' letter (February 12). Why should the word British be dropped? Whatever the reason there must be some other way to handle this delicate situation.

It has always been "British Made", a slogan which has lasted over the years. Surely we must never forget those words?

It is right, leave the word BRITISH in peace.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN W. DIXON,
3 Dovecote,
Middle Rasen,
Lincolnshire.

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| No | Company | Group | Gains or Loss |
|----|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | New Int'l | Newspaper/Pub | |
| 2 | Hall Eng | Industrial | |
| 3 | Hammerton | Property | |
| 4 | ACT Group | Electrical | |
| 5 | Stern Water | Water | |
| 6 | Dale | Electrical | |
| 7 | Clarke Foods | Foods | |
| 8 | Granada | Industrial | |
| 9 | Let Service | Motors/Air | |
| 10 | Agfa Gp | Paper/Print | |
| 11 | Jubilee Johnson | Building/Bds | |
| 12 | Money Docks | Transport | |
| 13 | Swiss Pack A' | Industrial | |
| 14 | New Caledonia | Property | |
| 15 | Lemon | Textiles | |
| 16 | Lucas | Motors/Air | |
| 17 | Bac Aerospace | Motors/Air | |
| 18 | Halsford (D) | Chem./Phar | |
| 19 | Wair | Industrials | |
| 20 | Wicks | Drapery/Sts | |
| 21 | Capital Radio | Leisure | |
| 22 | Farnell Elect | Electrical | |
| 23 | P & O Old | Transport | |
| 24 | Brumagro Ind | Industrial | |
| 25 | South West | Water | |
| 26 | Hammond | Books/Disc | |
| 27 | Bradford | Property | |
| 28 | Midland | Books/Disc | |
| 29 | Not West | Books/Disc | |
| 30 | Kilmorion Ben | Books/Disc | |
| 31 | Scicorplaid | Industrial | |
| 32 | Alled Lyons | Beverages | |
| 33 | Bowes | Electrical | |
| 34 | St Ives Gp | Paper/Print | |
| 35 | Cross Vinylia | Drapery/Sts | |
| 36 | British Gas | Gas/Cat | |
| 37 | BOC | Industrial | |
| 38 | MTM | Chem./Phar | |
| 39 | Hinged Win | Building/Bds | |
| 40 | TI | Industrial | |
| 41 | Norcor | Industrial | |
| 42 | Sims Food | Foods | |
| 43 | Rugby Group | Building/Bds | |
| 44 | Whitbread A' | Beverages | |
| 45 | © Times Newspapers Ltd. Total | | |

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily goals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

1991/92 High/Low Company Price + Net Val P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

| No | Company | Price | + Net Val | P/E |
|-----|-----------------|-------|-----------|------|
| 311 | Abbey Nat | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
| 312 | Barclays | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
| 313 | Barclays Amex | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
| 314 | Barclays Nat | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
| 315 | BSI | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
| 316 | HSB of Ireland | 155 | -1 | 20.0 |
| 317 | HSB of Scotland | 155 | -1 | 20.0 |
| 318 | ICI | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
| 319 | IBG | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
| 320 | IBG London | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
| 321 | IBG North | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
| 322 | IBG South | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
| 323 | IBG Ulster | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
| 324 | Imperial Dist | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
| 325 | Imperial Dist | 290 | -1 | 83.4 |
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1991/92 BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

BREWERIES

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| 312 | Adnams | 250 | +7 | 183 |
| 313 | Barry | 250 | +7 | 183 |
| 314 | Bass | 250 | +7 | 183 |
| 315 | Bell's | 250 | +7 | 183 |
| 316 | Bitter | 250 | +7 | 183 |
| 317 | Bladon | 250 | +7 | 183 |
| 318 | Boddington's | 250 | +7 | 183 |
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1991/92 BREWERIES

BUILDING, ROADS

| No | Company | Price | + Net Val | P/E |
|-----|-----------|-------|-----------|--------|
| 362 | Adels | 67 | -24 | 143 |
| 363 | Aerospace | 24 | -1 | 143 |
| 364 | Alstom | 123 | -9 | 25.8 |
| 365 | Amec | 123 | -9 | 25.8 |
| 366 | Amec | 123 | -9 | 25.8</ |

Lamb, DeFreitas and Fairbrother given the go-ahead for World Cup

England gamble with Lamb

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN SYDNEY

BOXERS, preparing for a championship bout, have their jealously guarded training camps. Cricketers, preparing for the World Cup, have open house at warm-up games and yesterday, on opposite sides of this city, the two heavyweights of the competition went through their paces in markedly different atmospheres.

Australia, the champions and short-priced favourites looked in formidable good batting order as they tied a sternly competitive game against the New South Wales side, watched by upwards of 3,000 paying customers.

There were no more than a dozen spectators watching England's final practice game, one they had little difficulty in winning as it was against themselves — Gooch's XI against Stewart's XI, with a smattering of wintering English county players making up the numbers.

With the decline of the West Indies and the demise of Waqar Younis, of Pakistan, England's Cup odds have shortened. They are what John McCrick would describe as the 'steamer' of the race.

If yesterday's preamble, in motley dress on the local university ground, had the feel of a gentle schoolboy session, it was a fulfilling day for Graeme Hick, who made 95, and a pretty serious exercise for two more of the party.

Phil DeFreitas, whose groin strain has been a source of concern for some weeks now, needed to bowl flat out to guarantee his retention. He did so and, although noticeably tiring in the sapping, 90-degree heat, he felt no reaction. "No problems at all," he said. "I have been able to bowl without discomfort for a few days now and I am very relieved."

For Neil Fairbrother it was also a day of decision. Almost five weeks since he last batted in a competitive game, he knew his World Cup place would go to Mark Ramprakash unless he could prove himself recovered from a side injury. With Allan Lamb, a sad spectator yesterday, already ruled out for three weeks, England could not afford another half-fit batsman.

Fairbrother convinced the men who matter, and Eng-



Someone to lean on: Lamb gets a helping shoulder from Laurie Brown, the physiotherapist, yesterday

land, late last night, confirmed their original selection of 14, including the gamble that Lamb will be fit for at least the second half of the competition.

Australia appear to have had a trouble-free approach to their defence of the Cup and their confidence stone through at the North Sydney Oval. This is a charming, time-warp of a ground, built inside the last ten years into a monument to the old-style Sydney Cricket Ground, complete with a stand and clock tower from the original.

There was nothing genteel or old-fashioned about the cricket, however. The concept of a friendly match is anathema to Australians; hence, we had Steve Waugh, represent-

ing New South Wales, bowling a stony-faced bouncer to his brother, Mark, and Mike Whitney, another Australian player in the state side, giving no apparent apology for a chest-high full-toss to Tom Moody, who was riled enough to respond with four consecutive blows for four.

The Australians leave for Auckland tomorrow and play their only "away" game against New Zealand on Saturday. After that, it will be Cup fever all the way — Sydney has already sold out for the holders' matches against South Africa and England in the next fortnight.

ENGLAND'S CRICKET: G A Gooch (capt), I J Lewis, D R Pringle, N H Panton, G C Lewis, R K Langworth, A J Lamb, C C Lewis, D R Pringle, D A Reeve, G C Small, R A Smith, A J Stewart, P G H Tufnell.

Richardson claims coach is needed

Sydney: The West Indies captain, Richie Richardson, criticised his nation's World Cup planning yesterday, a matter of days before they open with a match against Pakistan in Melbourne on Sunday. Richardson said his team was at a disadvantage because it does not have a full-time coach. He said the West Indies Cricket Board was moving towards the appointment of a coach, but, questioned, the timing, saying it was a mistake to go into the Cup competition without one.

In the past two seasons the team's one-day record has been poor, winning just three of 17 games.

David Boon's rich batting form continued yesterday as he hit 104 in a warm-up match between Australia and New South Wales that was tied. New South Wales managed just one run in the last of the 50 overs, finishing on 27 for eight. (Agencies)

SOURCE: Sydney: Australia 27 for 4 (D Boon 104); Australia 27 for 27 and 18 Field 4 for 37; 50 overs. Pakistan: New Zealand v Zimbabwe, abandoned because of rain.

Slow running could be costly

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK
IN AUCKLAND

OF THE five World Cup countries I have watched this month, the weakest has been New Zealand. That England have beaten them so comprehensively is, of course, excellent, but if New Zealand's form in last Saturday's one-day international at Christchurch was an accurate guide, a cautious assessment of England's achievement in going through New Zealand unbeaten would be advisable.

It came as no surprise to hear that, also on Saturday, South Africa had beaten Pakistan in Canberra. They have now played four one-day internationals since coming back into circulation, three against India and one against Pakistan, and they have won two of them.

Pakistan have been playing nothing like as well as they can, whereas South Africa are fairly bursting with ambition. New Zealand entered the week in which the World Cup starts no less in need of a

change of fortune than Pakistan, and, although they beat Zimbabwe in Rotorua on Monday, rain reduced the match to nothing much more than a bun fight.

On Saturday the return of England's prodigal son to Christchurch was electrifying. As a young man of 22, Ian Botham made the first of his 14 Test hundreds there in 1978, an occasion on which he was precocious enough to run out his captain, Geoff Boycott, in England's second innings because he felt he was scoring too slowly if England were to win the match. Boycott did not care for that, but England won and Botham took eight wickets to add to his haul.

This time he took the New Zealanders by storm. To me, the special dispensation, whereby he was allowed to complete the pantomime season before joining the England party in New Zealand, was astonishing, but he is here now and at Christchurch he greatly cheered up a miserably cold day.

More surprising was the speed at which Chris Lewis bowled. It was an unusual pitch, particularly for New Zealand, having pace and a fairly sharp bounce, and Lewis used it to show that he has it in him to become a genuinely fast bowler. He may not be accurate enough at it on slower pitches to make it worthwhile, but the way he bowled on Saturday was a revelation. He is clearly a considerable athlete.

A full England side, if injuries allow one to take the field, could be expected to bat better than most of its World Cup rivals, with a not unreasonable expectation of runs almost all the way down the order. The bowling has yet to be tested under pressure, and, now that the white ball is swinging more than it used to, the concept of playing two spinners, Tufnell and Illingworth, is not being espoused quite as keenly as it was.

I am a little concerned at the prospect of deploying four

or five slow fielders. There are some very large grounds in Australia to patrol (Melbourne and Perth, particularly) and the running between the wickets, especially of the Australians, is going to exaggerate the points of weakness.

Lewis, Hick and Smith are very good indeed; Reeve and Small are useful. But the quick runners will be looking to Gooch (fit though he is).

Botham, Pringle, Tufnell and possibly Illingworth to turn ones into twos or threes into fours — or at Adelaide, to the longest straight boundary in the world, fours into fives.

□ Adelaide: David Hookes,

who needs 48 runs from two

matches to become the leading run-scorer in the Sheffield Shield, is to retire next month. Hookes, aged 36, one of the most flamboyant stroke-makers in the world, scored the fastest first-class hundred in terms of balls received (34 balls v Victoria in 1982-3). He played 23 Tests between 1977 and 1985, scoring 1,306 runs at an average of 34.31. (Agencies)

VOLLEYBALL

Coventry Riga steal a rare set from Malory

BY RODDY MACKENZIE

TEAM Mizuno Malory kept on course for their fourth league and cup double in five years by maintaining their two-point advantage at the top of the men's first division of the Royal Bank of Scotland English League last weekend. However, the London club surprisingly dropped a set to Coventry Riga, the bottom club, in a 15-4, 15-5, 14-6, 15-4 win — only the fourth set that Riga have won in the league this season.

Malory are concerned about knee injuries to their English internationals. Richard Dobell and Stuart Dunn, who missed last weekend's match and are doubtful for Saturday's Royal Bank of Scotland English Cup semi-final at Speedwell Runcorn.

"Richard's injury is a day-to-day thing and we'll just

need to see what happens," Jefferson Williams, the Malory coach, said. "Stuart has had knee problems for a while and is only 50 per cent fit and is unlikely to play."

Reebok Liverpool City have emerged as the team most likely to upset Malory's double ambitions. They consolidated second place in the league with a 3-15, 15-7, 15-8, 15-9 win over third-placed Hilton Leeds on Saturday and face Polonia Galing in the cup semi-final this weekend.

In the women's first division, Woolwich Brixton, the leaders, dropped only their third set of the season in their 15-4, 14-6, 15-7, 15-6 win over Trafford at home. Brixton, also coached by Williams, meet Trafford again in the cup semi-final on Sunday.

BRIDGE

England in control of home series

ENGLAND comprehensively outpointed Scotland in Glasgow to instal themselves, with one round to go, as favourites to win the Camrose Trophy home international series for the eleventh time in 12 years (Albert Dorner writes).

Tony Forrester, Andrew Robson, Graham Kirby and John Armstrong, the backbone of Britain's world championship team, together with Mark Horton and Richard Winter, won their matches 17-13, 16-10 and 24-4, while Wales beat Northern Ireland in Ballymena.

At the Stratford Congress, the Victor Ludorum prize was won by the Middlesex couple, Dennis and Celia Oram.

RESULTS: Home internationals: Pairs: 1, Brixton; 14, Reebok; 2, Wales; 23, Scotland; 24, Northern Ireland; 25.

French farce fails to spoil a spectacle

BY PETER BARNARD

NO AMOUNT of unpleasant and violent behaviour by French rugby forwards should be allowed to detract from the wonderful spectacle of England's win in Paris on Saturday. My goodness, they were good.

It is just as well the British Isles are not touring this year because how you would decide between Gavin Hastings, of Scotland, and the amazing Jonathan Webb, of Bath and England, for the full back spot? I simply do not know.

Webb's try had the men and women in the room where I watched the game on their feet. An Irishman, a Welshman and a well-known Geordie actor-writer, who insists on talking about the "real game" but still enjoys rugby union, made up the pack. None stayed sitting, either, as the referee dismissed two Frenchman.

Who were these "some people"? Why are they, anonymously, worthy of a quote from one of our leading rugby commentators? They surely cannot have thought Hilditch would be windy because he was Irish?

Someone should have warned the French before the game that, whoever in this world you bully, you will not bully an Ulster schoolteacher.

Report explores muddy waters

BRIAN CLARKE

The latest Blue Book brief from the Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST), the charitable organisation which seeks to protect the most heroic and threatened of all our fish, is calculated to make schizoprenic any angler and conservationist even more interested in the species.

The pressures on the fish — most of them, if not all man-made — are enough to make one marvel that there are any Atlantic salmon left to fight for. Yet the vigour and energy of its tiny champion, which worries at the trouser-leg of officialdom like a Jack Russell terrier, would leave room for hope even if it were the only organisation in the field which it is not.

The Blue Book just out is a progress report on the AST's activities at year-end 1991 and on salmon survival issues, including the subtle and disquieting threat to wild salmon stocks through their interaction with salmon escaping from farms.

The result is an at-a-glance guide to why salmon runs, and salmon bags, are likely to be at their present abysmal levels. It shows, too, how the future of salmon angling as a sport is inextricably bound up with the sombre issues with salmon escaping from farms.

The pressures on the salmon while in the sea do not all concern over-netting, even though that is where much effort has rightly gone. Climatic change is one other pressure. Predation by seals is another. A third is the erosion of the food chain on which wild salmon, trout and other species depend.

The fish at the lower end of this food chain are being trawled out of the north Atlantic in vast quantities.

Factory ships process these fish in their thousands of tons to provide a number of products, one of which is fish feed pellets.

Caged salmon held in the salmon farms off the Scottish, Irish and Norwegian coasts are fed on these pellets. So there is every likelihood that the food chain on which a declining population of wild fish depends is being eroded to feed at least some of the fish in the salmon farmers' cages.

BOXING

Benn ready to stake claim

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Benn gets his chance

tonight to make his case for a return with Chris Eubank. He meets Dan Sherry, of Canada, at Alexandra Palace in a match that should appeal to experts and punters alike.

If Benn does the job well since successfully defending his Canadian title, but then was stopped by Otis Grant in the eighth round because of an eye injury. As an amateur, Sherry had 245 contests and won a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games, beating Jeff Harding, of Australia, now the World Boxing Council light-heavyweight champion.

If Benn is more experienced, with 33 contests and 28 knockouts to Sherry's 20 bouts and eight stoppages, the Canadian's performance against Eubank makes him as live an "opponent" as one can get. For Benn's sake, let us hope he is not too lively.

Sherry is a good test for Benn. When Sherry met Eubank, he was floored in the fourth round but got up, carried the fight to Eubank and

was leading on most cards when, in the tenth round, Eubank's butt brought the contest to an abrupt and controversial end.

Sherry has boxed twice since successfully defending his Canadian title, but then was stopped by Otis Grant in the eighth round because of an eye injury. As an amateur, Sherry had 245 contests and won a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games, beating Jeff Harding, of Australia, now the World Boxing Council light-heavyweight champion.

If Sherry has come to win, he could pose problems for Benn. According to Pep Correa, his trainer, Sherry has studied tapes of Benn's bouts. "You can throw Benn's right hand out of the window," Correa said.

Perhaps they have seen the wrong tapes. These days Benn, realising he is an easy target if he goes in swinging, relies on the jab to set up his

man. But Benn has never looked good against boxers. Sherry is an excellent boxer, and has some very clever moves that could give Benn difficult angles. Sherry has good short, straight punches, the sort that Benn dislikes.

Benn has to catch him cleanly. Once he does, it should be over. But Correa warned that Sherry has been through a strengthening course. "Benn's got a big punch and a big heart," Correa said, "but don't take my kid for granted because he's a white kid." It is a warning Benn would do well to heed.

□ Virny Pazienza, the World Boxing Association junior middleweight champion, plans to defend his title by the end of the year, despite fracturing two vertebrae in a car accident in November.

"I'm going to beat this thing," Pazienza said. "I'm doing better than anybody expected I'd be doing."

especially when he has two fellow-countrymen running the touchlines for him.

Well done, England, and well done to Chris Rea who, on Rugby Special on Sunday afternoon, was pointing out that the post-match discussion about a difference in interpretation of the rugby laws between the French and the rest of us had got nothing whatever to do with players being downright filthy on the field of play.

I am still hugely enjoying the Olympics, and the down-hill skiing sequence the Beeb has shown a few times, where the camera is on the skier, is sheer brilliance. I have nearly fallen off the chair a few times as I missed or thought I had missed a gate!

It was disappointing for the two-man bobsleigh team but, watching them, I was struck by how like golf the bobsleigh is.

I am not trying to be funny but, just as in golf, one shot,

maybe two, or, at most, three, can separate the leading dozen players in a tournament.

In the bobsleighing, three-hundredths of a second — a bit less, a bit more — is often all that divides the top ten.

As in golf, where a ball will slip agonisingly by the hole and mean the difference between winning and losing, so a wobble at the wrong moment.

I am still... at some stage, though I cannot remember exactly when, I watched some American football on television. I kept my eye on one particular player for a good ten minutes because I was working on a theory.

In that time, he never touched the ball. My question is this. Can you think of any other ball game where it would be possible to go an entire playing career and never actually touch the ball the other guys are playing with?

Starmer-Smith quoted

Design advances mean all is not as it seems in the world of women's figure skating



Fashion forerunner: early designs, from the 1930s, left, and the 1940s

Changing face of ice maidens

FROM JOHN HENNESSY
IN ALBERTVILLE

THE French have given the world an expression for it, *trompe-l'oeil*. What you see in the women's figure skating, which starts today, is not what you get. Areas of bare flesh seem to be on display; the skaters wearing less and less. But do not trust the evidence of your eyes. Flesh-coloured chiffon enables costumes not only, apparently, to defy gravity but also to preserve the modesty of attire required by the International Skating Union (ISU).

The advance, if that is the word, of the couturier's art is all part of the more professional approach to skating nowadays, fostered by beckoning professionalism in the wake of widespread television exposure. The theatrical presentation and specially prepared must have added to all the zest for innovation in dress design, though, it may be that

the summit has been reached by the outfit commissioned, on behalf of Surya Bonaly, *la perle noire* of France, for Friday night's free skating. It has been designed by Christian Lacroix at the breathtaking cost of 125,000 francs (about £13,000), thanks to her sponsors. So far we have been denied even a view of the sketch. As an aperitif, Lacroix has also kitted Bonaly out for tonight's original programme.

Things have changed spectacularly since the days, little more than three decades ago, when competitions were held on outdoor rinks, which required more substantial attire. Men would wear suits with long underwear; the women a long-sleeved woolen top, skirt or below-the-knee and stockings of heavy material.

Tracing six compulsory figures, as they had to do in those days, often in an icy blast, was a test of hardiness, as well as technique. Even further back, recreational

women skaters had to resort to wearing fur.

Coming indoors was soon, by chance, followed by colour television and the availability of lightweight stretch fabrics. Then came more dramatic presentations and that called for new thinking.

"It would be ridiculous," Betty Callaway, mentor of Torvill and Dean, says, "for a man to interpret a ballet sequence wearing trousers. He has to have tights."

In the women's figure skating, beginning tonight, there are 29 entrants, but for all practical purposes 27 of them will be aiming for the bronze medal. Kristi Yamaguchi and Midori Ito seem destined for battle for the gold medal.

Yamaguchi, an American of Japanese descent, is the world champion while Ito, of Japan, held that title three years ago. One jump, Ito's triple axel, could prove crucial. It is the one element that is beyond the reach of Yamaguchi.

Summit Women skaters had to resort to wearing fur.

Elegance on ice: Katarina Witt in modern attire

Compagnoni and Tomba achieve Italian double

FROM DAVID POWELL
IN VAL D'ISÈRE

THE sky was riviera blue yesterday, the way Alberto Tomba likes it, and the Italian folk hero of skiing took advantage of the change in weather here to enter the history books. He became the first competitor to retain an Olympic Alpine title, after a thrilling battle with Marc Girardelli in the giant slalom.

Even so, he may not be the first Italian to win two skiing gold medals at these Winter Games. Two hours before Tomba's triumph, Deborah Compagnoni removed the women's super-giant slalom gold medal from the clutches of Carole Merle, on whom the host nation had pinned its hopes of a first skiing victory.

Today, Compagnoni skinned the discipline at which she is most consistent, the giant slalom, and, tomorrow, in the slalom. Tomba has to wait until Saturday for his attempt to make history almost impossible to repeat. By winning the slalom, he can

become the first to retain two titles at successive Olympics.

Compagnoni's success is an extraordinary story of triumph over adversity. The two knee operations she has had in the last four years seem trivial set against what happened in October 1990.

In pain, she was rushed to hospital by her father. After intestinal surgery, she was told that, had she arrived 20 minutes later, she would probably have died. Five months further on, she was skiing again; three weeks ago, in a World Cup super-giant slalom, she achieved her first victory. Yesterday's was her second.

Tomba's was the one that mattered to Italy and the Olympics. The gold medals were in danger of being buried in a snow storm of anonymity.

Petra Kronberger had resisted by winning the women's combined and Tomba came to her assistance. The four other events had been won by skiers of small reputation.



OLYMPICS

Tomba, though, is different. He courts attention wherever he goes and, on this occasion, he had with him a personal entourage of nine.

Coach, assistant coach, physiotherapist, masseur, doctor, ski service man, psychologist, manager, and Cima Marchese, the International Management Group's leading man in Italy. Marchese will be rubbing his hands, and not from the cold.

The shortness of the course

was not perfect for Tomba but the weather was. His record shows that his worst races come in adverse conditions and, for eight days before yesterday, snow and wind had prevailed.

He watched on television from the mountain-top restaurant as Compagnoni, aged 21, upstaged Merle. When it came to him, the knees on which he had been having laser treatment stood the test.

Girardelli, the overall World Cup champion who had been out of form but now has two silver medals from these Games, was unfortunate to find Tomba at his brilliant best.

The field was swollen to the point of obesity, 133 in number. So poor were the tail-enders that Raymond Kavro, of Libya, managed to make up the minute separating each competitor at the start gate to overtake Hassan El Mahta of Morocco.

But there was only ever going to be one winner. We all knew who that would be, except the press conference organisers. At previous conferences, simultaneous translation had been given in several languages. Until it came to Tomba.

"We did not think it would be necessary to have an Italian translator," they announced, calling a journalist from the floor to repeat, none too accurately, Tomba's words. Now that Tomba has won in France for the first time, perhaps the locals will be ready for him on Saturday.

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"I still enjoy having a couple of turns on the rink or skating on a lake, but competing is over for me."

But the feeling quickly passed. "I still enjoy having a couple of turns on the rink or skating on a lake, but competing is over for me."

The tall, immensely powerful Heiden quit the sport soon after his Olympic tri-

Sprint skaters lack drive to match Heiden

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A generous helping of dedication and a dash of genetics is the recipe for a speed skater to win all five gold medals at the Winter Olympics, according to Eric Heiden, of the United States, who accomplished the feat at the 1980 Games.

Heiden, a television commentator for the Albertville Games, said that a skater needed luck with form and health to take all five golds, but he rejected the notion that competitors were now too specialised for his performance to be repeated.

Heiden, the overall World Cup champion who had been out of form but now has two silver medals from these Games, was unfortunate to find Tomba at his brilliant best.

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RUGBY UNION

England prosper with relaxed mental approach

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE ugliness of the closing stages of England's game with France on Saturday tended to obscure the virtues of so much that had gone before, both English and French. But the quality will not have been lost on the Welsh management, whose team now stands between England and a second successive grand slam; both countries name their sides on Tuesday for the game at Twickenham on March 7.

The Welsh will have noted the facility with which England now score points, even when they are not dominating. Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union's technical director, who has been associated with international rugby since 1960, either as player or administrator, believes that the England XV is breaking new ground.

"That hasn't just happened. We have been working on this for four or five years. Fitness comes into it — there wouldn't be so many people round the ball if we weren't running fit — but it's also concentration on ball skills in tight situations."

Defensively, too, England are a greatly-improved side. Carding admits the mistakes his players made in the first half in Paris but also their ability to recover. England's tackling has been fearsome at times, though not quite as fearsome against the French, whose power and pace is comparable to that of Australian and New Zealand players.

"We learned a lot from the Australians last summer," Rutherford said. "They are very powerful runners and the game of the future is about power. It's nothing to do with height, but with the power-weight ratio. If you can tackle your weight, or a bit more, that will be reflected in the way you play."

Pierre Berbizier, the French coach, may find the appointment of a pack leader a necessary step before the game with Scotland. Last Saturday's pack included no nominated leader, direction being left — as is so often the case.

The boxing metaphor may not be entirely apt in the light of the two French suspensions, but it makes a vivid point. Moreover, England have a more relaxed mental approach since playing Australia in November which Will Carling, the captain, acknowledges. It is an advance from the World Cup," he said. "We are getting very close to what the All Blacks achieved in their unbeaten four-year period."

Rutherford also points to the number of England players in good positions near the ball "either when the opposition makes a mistake or from a situation of our own choosing." He added: "They can all handle the ball, too. When Philippe Sella went off injured, which may have contributed to the final catastrophic ten minutes."

Ireland's selectors meet tomorrow to review a disastrous season: they have called a squad weekend for March 7 and 8, when they are likely to confirm the team for the final championship match against France on March 21. Philip Matthews, their captain, has denied he is considering stepping down.

Alliance urges financial aid

BY DAVID HANDS

THE four leading southern-hemisphere countries, meeting in Sydney last weekend, formalised the standing of the Southern Hemisphere Rugby Alliance. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina will next meet in February 1993.

Their combined effect, however, is immediate. They have agreed to recommend a system of financial compensation for countries taking part in the World Cup, which would involve money being paid to teams eliminated in qualifying rounds and a lump sum for all participants apart from the hosts.

That recommendation will go before the International Rugby Settlement, the trust established by the International Rugby Board (IRFB) to develop rugby union worldwide, which will probably meet next month.

The intention of the southern-hemisphere countries is to assist the poorer rugby-playing nations to prepare properly for future World Cups.

Should the IRFB, at its

annual meeting in Wellington in April, agree proposed law changes (including the revised points-scoring system of five for a try and two for a dropped goal), then Australia and New Zealand will adopt them during the All Blacks tour in July. That could lead to a somewhat anomalous situation if Scotland and Ireland (who tour Australia and New Zealand respectively in May) do so under the old values. Fundamental change midway through a season does not seem to have a great deal to recommend it.

All four countries will support New Zealand's proposal that coaches be allowed on to the field at half-time during internationals to address their players. That seems to me a retrograde step, taking responsibility from the captain and removing initiative from the players.

On Canterbury, the New Zealand kit manufacturers who equipped New Zealand, Australia and Western Samoa in the World Cup, have signed a £25,000 deal with Wasps.

Geoghegan may not make Ireland tour

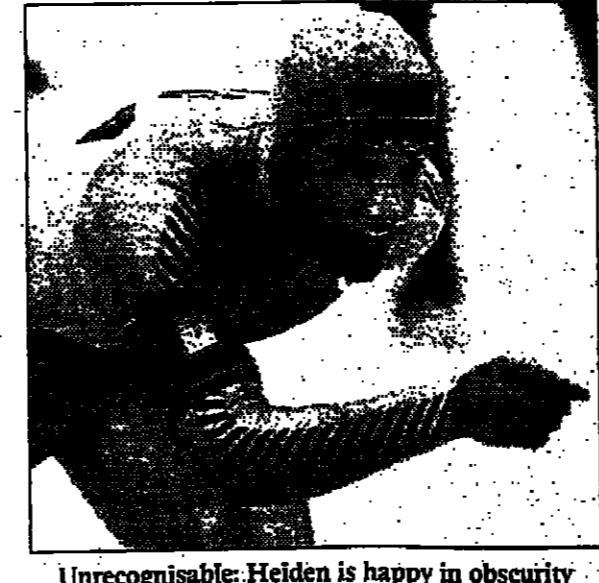
BY PETER BILLS

IRELAND, contemplating last place in the five nations' championship after their third defeat of the season against Scotland at the weekend, yesterday received more bad news.

Simon Geoghegan, their inspirational wing, said that he may miss the Irish tour in May due to examinations at the end. He said: "I have probably lost seven weeks from this season alone, five of them during the World Cup."

"I find I am fighting a losing battle as regards balancing the demands of work and rugby. And the situation will only get worse if as has been suggested League matches are brought in soon on a home and away basis each season. Whether I can spare the time to spend another five weeks away from my studies is doubtful."

Geoghegan will not make a final decision on whether to tour until after Ireland's last game in the five nations' championships, against France in Paris on March 21. But he concedes such a tour is a great attraction to him.



Unrecognisable: Heiden is happy in obscurity

Nordic skiing

Combined team event (Courchevel)

1988 winners West Germany
FINAL, P. Aebischer (Switzerland), 1 min 59m 26 sec; 2, Italy, 1 hr 22m 33m; 3, France, 1 hr 24m 33m; 4, Austria, 1 hr 25m 48s; 5, Norway, 1 hr 26m 48s; 6, Sweden, 1 hr 27m 48s; 7, Switzerland, 1 hr 28m 48s; 8, United States, 1 hr 29m 48s; 9, Canada, 1 hr 30m 48s; 10, France, 1 hr 31m 48s; 11, Italy, 1 hr 32m 48s; 12, Norway, 1 hr 33m 48s; 13, Austria, 1 hr 34m 48s; 14, Sweden, 1 hr 35m 48s; 15, Switzerland, 1 hr 36m 48s; 16, United States, 1 hr 37m 48s; 17, France, 1 hr 38m 48s; 18, Canada, 1 hr 39m 48s; 19, Norway, 1 hr 40m 48s; 20, Italy, 1 hr 41m 48s; 21, France, 1 hr 42m 48s; 22, United States, 1 hr 43m 48s; 23, Austria, 1 hr 44m 48s; 24, Norway, 1 hr 45m 48s; 25, Sweden, 1 hr 46m 48s; 26, Switzerland, 1 hr 47m 48s; 27, France, 1 hr 48m 48s; 28, Italy, 1 hr 49m 48s; 29, Norway, 1 hr 50m 48s; 30, United States, 1 hr 51m 48s; 31, France, 1 hr 52m 48s; 32, Italy, 1 hr 53m 48s; 33, Norway, 1 hr 54m 48s; 34, France, 1 hr 55m 48s; 35, Italy, 1 hr 56m 48s; 36, Norway, 1 hr 57m 48s; 37, France, 1 hr 58m 48s; 38, Italy, 1 hr 59m 48s; 39, Norway, 1 hr 1m 48s; 40, France, 1 hr 1m 58s; 41, Italy, 1 hr 2m 48s; 42, Norway, 1 hr 2m 58s; 43, France, 1 hr 3m 48s; 44, Italy, 1 hr 3m 58s; 45, Norway, 1 hr 4m 48s; 46, France, 1 hr 4m 58s; 47, Italy, 1 hr 5m 48s; 48, Norway, 1 hr 5m 58s; 49, France, 1 hr 6m 48s; 50, Italy, 1 hr 6m 58s; 51, Norway, 1 hr 7m 48s; 52, France, 1 hr 7m 58s; 53, Italy, 1 hr 8m 48s; 54, Norway, 1 hr 8m 58s; 55, France, 1 hr 9m 48s; 56, Italy, 1 hr 9m 58s; 57, Norway, 1 hr 10m 48s; 58, France, 1 hr 10m 58s; 59, Italy, 1 hr 11m 48s; 60, Norway, 1 hr 11m 58s; 61, France, 1 hr 12m 48s; 62, Italy, 1 hr 12m 58s; 63, Norway, 1 hr 13m 48s; 64, France, 1 hr 13m 58s; 65, Italy, 1 hr 14m 48s; 66, Norway, 1 hr 14m 58s; 67, France, 1 hr 15m 48s; 68, Italy, 1 hr 15m 58s; 69, Norway, 1 hr 16m 48s; 70, France, 1 hr 16m 58s; 71, Italy, 1 hr 17m 48s; 72, Norway, 1 hr 17m 58s; 73, France, 1 hr 18m 48s; 74, Italy, 1 hr 18m 58s; 75, Norway, 1 hr 19m 48s; 76, France, 1 hr 19m 58s; 77, Italy, 1 hr 20m 48s; 78, Norway, 1 hr 20m 58s; 79, France, 1 hr 21m 48s; 80, Italy, 1 hr 21m 58s; 81, Norway, 1 hr 22m 48s; 82, France, 1 hr 22m 58s; 83, Italy, 1 hr

THE TIMES SPORT

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1992

Taylor springs a surprise by omitting the England captain for the international against France

Lineker is left on the bench

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Taylor has made some bizarre decisions in his capacity as the manager of England over the last 18 months but none of them compares to his latest move. The unforeseen omission of his captain, Gary Lineker, for the international match against France tonight has been greeted with widespread astonishment.

No one had predicted that Rob Jones would complete an extraordinarily rapid ascent or that Nigel Clough would be recalled but at least their inclusions were welcome and logical. The exclusion of Lineker is neither.

Following Taylor's explanation is akin to walking through the maze at Hampton Court. A week after stating categorically that it would be unwise to leave out the nation's leading scorer, he now considers it preferable to develop a potentially striking partnership between David Hirst, of Sheffield Wednesday, and Alan Shearer, of Southampton.

Nine months after declaring that he would rather not substitute his captain, he has reduced him to the unprecedented indignity of sitting on the bench at the start. Lineker himself was stunned to hear that he had been dropped for the first time since becoming an established international six years ago.

He has effectively paid a humiliating price for his own honesty. Rather than concealing his intention to retire at the end of the European championship finals in June, he informed Taylor. It was poignant that Lineker, though apparently hurt by his temporary dismissal, should yesterday maintain a diplomatic silence.

"In business, when someone tells you that he is resigning in three months, you either tell him to go or you sort somebody out to take his

place," Taylor said. He claimed that "it was not a bad thing to play this team" — a surprise package — against a nation drawn in the same group in Sweden. That did not make convincing sense, either.

Although Taylor stressed that Lineker is not "under threat", his future is evidently more limited than even he thought. So are his chances of scoring the four goals he requires to surpass Bobby Charlton's record of 49.

Since it must be presumed that Lineker will lead the attack in the summer, it would surely have been more worthwhile trying either Shearer or, preferably, Hirst, with him.

Alan Smith, recently his most regular ally, failed to recover from a dead leg and was ruled out of contention.

An experimental spearhead was last fashioned in 1984, coincidentally against France in Paris.

At least the fresh components, Brian Stein and Paul Walsh, were club colleagues at Luton Town and not strangers to each other.

Nevertheless, the combination was such an obvious failure that neither was ever picked again.

Hirst, a naturally left-footed forward making his second full appearance, and Shearer, a right-footed novice, will not even have the



Face of the future: Shearer prepares for tonight's international at an England training session

Shearer steps forward

By LOUISE TAYLOR

IF ALAN Shearer's first appearance on the international stage proves half as dramatic as his domestic entrance, Wembley will be in for a treat tonight. Four years ago, aged 17 and earning £35 per week, Shearer scored three goals against Arsenal on his first team debut for Southampton.

A transfer valuation of £4 million is testimony to the fact that he has barely looked back since. Thirteen goals in 11 appearances for the England Under-21s and 17 this season for Southampton, the first division's bottom side, are proof of that.

Ian Branfoot, the Southampton manager, who once coached under Graham Taylor at Lincoln City and Lawrie McMenemy at the Dell, has no doubt supplied the England management with glowing

"All the best teams have three essentials," Taylor said. "A scorer, a playmaker and someone who stops the opposition's best player." So why willingly cast aside one of the principal ingredients?

Lineker has claimed 46 goals. Tonight's line-up between them has as many as Chris Woods conceded on Saturday. That is seven.

Scotland prepare, page 29

Martin Keown
Born: Oxford, 24.7.66.
Height: 6ft 1in.
Weight: 12st 4lb.
International honours:
England B: 1 appearance.
Under-21: 8 appearances.
Youth: 4 appearances.
Career: Joined Aston Villa from Arsenal in June 1988 for a tribunal fee of £125,000. Cost Everton £750,000 from Villa in June 1989. Made his League debut while playing on loan with Brighton against Manchester City in February 1990.

better. He has bone and timing.

If Shearer's rise has been rapid, that of Rob Jones has been meteoric. Aged 20, the full-back joined Liverpool from Crewe Alexandra — the club which also produced David Platt and Geoff Thomas — for £300,000, last September.

Born in Wrexham, his only previous international experience is two appearances for England youth, but he is following in the footsteps of his father who played twice for England in 1950, while also a Liverpool player.

By comparison, Martin Keown is at 25, a veteran. The Everton central defender has saved the best football of his career for this season and is fulfilling the potential that persuaded the Merseyside club to pay £750,000 for his services three years ago.

Rob Jones
Born: Wrexham, 5.11.71.
Height: 5ft 11in.
Weight: 11st.
International honours:
Youth: 2 appearances.
Career: Joined Liverpool from Crewe in September 1991 for £300,000. His grandfather, Bill Jones, also played for Liverpool and was awarded two England caps in 1950. Made his League debut for Crewe against Darlington, aged 16, having joined them as a trainee.

Revolutionary bat receives approval of ICC

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Sydney: An Australian inventor yesterday unveiled a revolutionary cricket bat in which the traditional straight handle is replaced by a curved handle, which the designer says gives batsmen more power and control.

Because the change was to the handle, and not the blade of the bat, it has been declared legal by the sport's world governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The handle of the new bat bends back away from the top of the blade, then hooks forward again, forcing the batsman's hands behind the face as the ball is played.

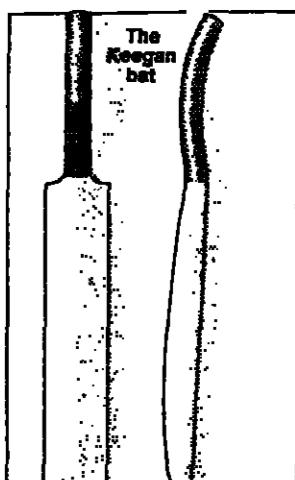
The laws of cricket state that the bat shall not be more than 38 inches (96.5cm) in length and that the blade of the bat shall be made of wood and shall not exceed 4.4 inches (10.8cm) at the widest part.

The laws make no specific reference to the handle. The new bat, designed by Sydney inventor Paul Keegan, has drawn interest from some of the game's leading players, past and present.

Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, tried the new bat during practice at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

"It looked a bit strange when I saw it, but I thought it could be the bat of the future," he said. "I like a bat that's slightly curved, anyway, because it's better to spank the ball. But it is different and it would take a bit of getting used to."

The innovative bat was launched yesterday by the former Australian players, Doug Walters and Steve Smith. Walters said it had a "sweet



New bat: welcomed

spot" (preferred hitting zone) four times that of the normal bat. Peter Roebuck, the former Somerset batsman, gave the bat a favourable review in a Sydney newspaper.

The former Australian fast bowler, Dennis Lillee, was the last pioneer to dabble with the basic bat, unchanged for more than a century. He went in against England 12 years ago with an aluminium bat. Mike Brearley, the England captain, protested. Lillee threw the bat away in disgust and it subsequently was banned by the ICC.

Other experimental bats have been tried in England in recent seasons. A bat with a convex face, intended to assist big-hitting by causing the ball to fly at unexpected angles, was banned by MCC, the custodians of the laws of cricket; but last year MCC approved, after trials, a double-faced bat, designed to help the reserve sweep — and to last twice as long as the traditional bat.

Lamb gambe, page 26

O'Reilly cruises through heat

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN ALBERTVILLE

WILF O'Reilly, the best hope — with all due respect to the four-man bob team — of a British Olympic medal here, successfully negotiated the first hurdle in the short-track skating championship, in the Ice Hall where Klimova and Ponomarenko had triumphed in the ice dance the night before.

The flimsy dresses and peasant costume gave way to crash helmets and knee pads as an exciting new Olympic spectacle came into focus. It is the only Winter Olympics sport, after hockey, which has no reference to a clock or a panel of judges.

O'Reilly was pitched into a heat of the 1,000m contested by only three skaters, with two to count. This ought to have been a help to O'Reilly, the world champion over this specific distance, which involves 11 laps of this tiny oval.

However, he imposed his will over Lianli Li, of China, and Jia-Kun Song, of South Korea, and, unlike previous heat winners, led from start to finish.

It was a most impressive performance.

Only two of Britain's three skaters were able to get through to tomorrow's quarter-finals.

First, Nick Gooch had fallen on the sixth lap in heat two, having just forced his way comfortably into second place. He was the first faller of the evening.

Matt Jasper, in the next heat, came through with some comfort. He was content to linger in third place for five laps, and then smoothly stole the lead from Dmitri Echov, of the CIS.

In Meribel, goalkeeper Sean Burke put Canada, the favourites for the old medal, into the Olympic ice hockey semi-finals, just saving Germany's sixth penalty in a sudden-death shoot-out.

The two teams finished 3-3 at the end of normal time. A fast, furious but scoreless ten minutes of extra time followed, leaving the outcome to be decided by the penalties.

Ice maidens, page 28
Results, page 28

Wembley warning

A CROWD of between 50,000 and 60,000 is expected for the international against France at Wembley tonight, when tickets will be on sale at the turnstiles (Louise Taylor writes).

With the construction yet to be completed of a covered walkway connecting Wem-

bley Park underground station and the stadium approaches, the tube is closed to football supporters. Wembley asks them to use either the British rail station near the Conference Centre, Wembley Central station, or to come by car. Tickets are available from £22.

PRODUCT RECALL

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1990 SANTINI PINOT GRIGIO (WHITE) 75CL
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1990 SANTINI SOAVE (WHITE) 1.5 LITRE
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1990 SANTINI VALPOLICELLA (RED) 1.5 LITRE
1990 SANTINI BARDOLINO (RED) 75CL
1989 SANTINI BARDOLINO (RED) 1.5 LITRE

There is a possibility that the above wines do not meet

our normal quality and safety specifications.

As a precaution stocks of these wines have been removed from display.

Customers who have purchased any of these wines are asked to return them to the point of sale, where a full refund will be given.

NO OTHER WINES STOCKED BY ODDIBINS ARE INVOLVED IN THIS RECALL.

DLV confident of Krabbe evidence

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

KATRIN Krabbe, the double world sprint champion, had a first meeting with her lawyers yesterday to work on her appeal against a four-year ban imposed by the German athletics federation (DLV) for allegedly being involved in manipulating a drugs test during a training session in South Africa last month.

Legal experts here say that, ironically, her most promising defence is that she is now said to have been guilty of a similar manipulation of a test in Germany last year. Her lawyers are expected to argue that by failing to act on that first test, the DLV either condoned what was going on or else made a mistake in the analysis.

Jos Hermens, Krabbe's Dutch manager, insists that the evidence against her is flimsy, concocted by west German authorities to discredit an east German star. In her only interview since the

ban, Krabbe said: "I just can't fathom it and say over and over again: we are innocent."

The federation is confident that no defence based on legal or technical grounds will be accepted by the courts. The DLV remains convinced that the test carried out on the samples in Cologne were accurate and that Krabbe and the two other athletes banned with her, Silke Moeller and Grit Breuer, must at least have been aware that manipulation was going on.

According to a DLV spokesman, the most promising defence might be to claim that the ban constituted a "berufsverbot" — an order to prevent her from following her chosen career — and that she would lose financially by not being able to run.

The banned athletes have engaged a large Frankfurt legal firm experienced in west German courts.

Sky is the limit in TV rights

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting's determination to be a leading player in sport yesterday brought criticism from the BBC and MPs, who tabled an Early Day Motion complaining that only those with satellite dishes or cable television will be able to watch the cricket World Cup, which begins in Australia on Friday night.

Throughout the month-long tournament, the BBC — traditionally the home of England's international cricket — and ITV will be restricted to one minute of recorded highlights during news bulletins.

Two years ago, Sky successfully broadcast the Test matches between England and West Indies in the Caribbean. A surge in the sales of satellite dishes followed — 125,000 systems were installed during the series.

Between February 21 and March 25, Sky Sports will broadcast 25 games live. The BBC, with all its other commitments, could never have matched such an output but

Greater competition has been responsible for forcing up the prices for television rights. Usually, the BBC has been able to find the money. It is spending a record £55 million this year to screen 1,600 hours of sport, including the Winter and Summer

Olympic Games, the European football championship, Wimbledon tennis and the Masters and Open golf championships.

The Barcelona Olympics alone, will cost the BBC £12 million in rights and production costs. This, the BBC believes, will be money well spent.

"Except for the Moscow Olympics, when there was a boycott and we had to halve our operation, 1992 will be the first Olympic Games since 1972 when many of the major events, including most athletics finals, will be going out at peak viewing time," Martin said.

BBC is also benefiting from the uncertainty in 1991 at ITV, caused by companies being reluctant to commit large amounts of money when they were applying for their franchises to be extended. With a policy of showing events "live and exclusive", ITV, with a budget of about £35 million, has the Derby, selected football matches in the Barclays League and

Rumbelows Cup, the domestic athletics contract and some boxing promotions. ITV will also share the European football championships with BBC.

John Bromley, chairman of TSL, a leading independent production company, said: "It's a much more competitive marketplace than it has ever been. With two million dishes, BSkyB has got a foothold which a lot of people did not think it would achieve."

He said that the "original cosiness" between the BBC and BSkyB, with the two sharing events, has not been so evident since the merger of the satellite channels.

The BBC is still the dominant force in the televising of sport but, occasionally, it has to lose a race, a match or a fight. For the World Cup, cricket lovers who do not have access to Sky Sports will have to content themselves with live coverage on Radio 3 and, from February 29, Radio 5.

ARTS
Television
detective on
the trail of
theatre cash



MEDIA
Some human
interest please
in television
current affairs

LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1992



CRISPIN RODWELL PHOTOGRAPHY

Ireland talks abortion

Ireland is ignorant about sex; Ireland doesn't need any sex education.

Alice Thomson hears opposing views of the latest controversy in the Republic



Breaking old taboos: protesters on O'Connell Street in Dublin last weekend attempt to bring the issue of abortion to the attention of Saturday morning shoppers

In Ireland they prefer to talk about politics, religion or Europe than to use the A-word. It is not that they do not have strong convictions about abortion, but the issue has become so emotive and bitterly divisive that in many circles the word is now taboo.

Abortion has been illegal in the Republic of Ireland since independence. At a referendum in 1983 an amendment to the constitution protecting "the right to life of the unborn child", was approved by a two-to-one majority. Each year about 8,000 women, the majority of them under 25, make the journey across the Irish Sea to have an abortion in Britain. Successive Irish governments have ignored this traffic.

Now a 14-year-old rape victim is pregnant and the High Court in Dublin has granted the Attorney-General, Harry Whelehan, an injunction preventing the girl from having her pregnancy terminated in Britain. In his first days of office, the new prime minister, Albert Reynolds, is staring the A-word in the face. So, once again, are Irish women.

On St Valentine's night, Ireland was on the eve of a rugby international against Scotland. Kits were swirling and roses were being generously distributed throughout Dublin. At midnight at The Pink Elephant, the in-club for the hip young Dubliner, Suzanne Murphy, 21, a Dublin sales assistant, and her friend, an unemployed model, were, by their own admission, out on the prowl. Ms Murphy thinks it is disgraceful that the girl should have been put through the case. "We are not a bunch of Catholics living in the Dark Ages anymore. Most of the young are very free thinking and believe in sex before marriage," she says. "Women should have a right to their own bodies and their own feelings. Nobody else should dictate a woman's private life. I don't think abortion should be as easy as in Britain, where you can just book an appointment like going to the dentist. But it should be available to those who have really thought about it and certainly for those who have been raped or whose lives are at risk."

John Rush, 21, a shop manager, agrees but adds: "Dublin is very unrepresentative, it was the most liberal in the referendum. If you go out to the sticks you will find that almost everyone is anti-abortion. I feel terribly sorry for any girl who gets pregnant by mistake in some country village."

In the early hours of the morning at Suseys bar, the owner, Rohan TEEHAN, aged 42, is entertaining some friends. "I can't have any children of my own and it really hurts when a woman wants an abortion. They are just so sad," she says. "Family life is about

children. But this girl is still a child and you can't impose a family philosophy on her. Her life would be ruined by having a child. I would never have voted for the amendment if I thought it would come to this."

Her niece, Cliodhna Quinlan is 18, and has come to stay for the weekend from County Mayo. "Women have to decide for themselves. I am at school. It would be difficult to have a child but I would cope," she says. She does not want abortion legalised in Ireland because she feels that Catholic doctors would then be obliged to deal with cases which could go against their beliefs. Her boyfriend, who was adopted, is against abortion under any circumstances. "Just because a child's parent is a rapist or underage, it shouldn't be condemned to die," he thinks.

On Saturday morning three groups held demonstrations against the injunction on the high street among the shoppers and the rugby fans. Maxine Brady, the 23-year-old president of the Union of Students in Ireland, brought her two-year-old daughter with her. She has been one of the most vocal advocates of free information on abortion services in Britain and has helped to set up Escort, a Liverpool student volunteer organisation which provides escorts for Irish women who go to Liverpool seeking abortions. She has just had a row with a woman on a bus who spat in her face and attacked her for "helping to kill lives".

The people who come to us feel psychologically, physically or financially unable to have a child," she says. "They are not just having an abortion because they don't want a break in their career. They are so desperate for an abortion they will always find a way to pay. We are just smoothing the way."

Since the referendum, the Irish Supreme Court, the country's ultimate legal authority, has clamped down on counselling services, banning them from giving the names, addresses or telephone numbers of

abortion clinics. Despite this, research has shown that, among 22- to 25-year-olds, Irish women are as likely to have abortions as their European counterparts.

Miss Brady thinks the situation can only be alleviated by better education and counselling services. "There is an appalling level of ignorance about sex in Ireland. One man had been re-using the same condom. Many regret having abortions but they aren't allowed to do so," she adds. "The ruling will drive the issue even further under. Women's lives will be put at risk from backstreet abortions and women will be frightened of going to the police if they've been raped."

Thirty miles outside Dublin in County Kildare, Naas is a small town with both high unemployment and a high proportion of single mothers. Pat Conroy, the mother of five daughters, is having tea with some friends. Once the men have been banished from the house, the women talk passionately about abortion. They are all active in their local church. "The right to life is fundamental," Mrs Conroy says. "Every child has a soul from the moment it is conceived: a foetus is not a turnip, it is a living being."

Pamela O'Neill cannot understand why a young woman cannot give the baby up for adoption if she feels she cannot cope with being a mother. Twenty years ago adoption was commonplace. She still remembers the case a few years ago when a young school teacher was hounded from her job after having an illegitimate child.

"There is something wrong with the world when one mother is having an abortion in one hospital room and next door another premature baby is fighting for its life."

Catherine Maher believes the root of the problem goes further back. "There was never a problem in Ireland until people began to be promiscuous outside marriage. We need to educate people so they don't think that it is desirable. Children need to be taught about respect for life and for each other. A relationship involves love and responsibility, not just lust. All sex education does is encourage them to be promiscuous, it makes them think sex is for free and it is not."

One of Mrs Conroy's daughters, Maria, says: "The British don't seem to understand that we are talking about a life. They are more concerned about the life of a fox than the life of a baby child and they are foisting their views on the Irish young. It doesn't matter if the foetus is malformed or the mother has been raped, the child must be given the chance to survive, even if the mother's life is at risk."



Campaigning for free information: Maxine Brady, president of the Union of Students in Ireland

There is only one dissenting voice, Maureen Connolly, the mother of five children, understands the pressures facing young women who get pregnant. She still remembers the case a few years ago when a young school teacher was hounded from her job after having an illegitimate child.

"There is less of a stigma about being a single parent in Ireland now but it is still tough financially and emotionally. The Irish love children and I think we should do more to help young women to keep their babies by providing counselling, childcare facilities and finance," she says.

"I do not believe that this case has proved us a backward country. We are at the forefront of a world movement towards greater humanity. The Americans have already begun to question abortion. Soon other countries will be following us."

INSIDE

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TOMORROW Whar intellectuals should read



Five ways you can help save the birds this winter with the RSPB - and get a free birdtable.

- 1 Put food out regularly as the birds will come to depend on you.
- 2 Only put out moist bread and boiled rice as, when dry, these can swell up inside birds' stomachs.
- 3 Float a child's ball in your birdbath to delay it freezing over.
- 4 Set aside an area for nettles, thistles and groundsel, to supply the seed-eaters; also, compost heaps and fallen leaves prevent frost, so birds can grub up insects.
- 5 Best of all, join the RSPB - and help us save our threatened countryside for birds and wildlife, now and in the future.

RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL

YES I want to join the RSPB this winter.

To support the RSPB's vital work, I enclose:
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Card number: _____ Expiry date: _____

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Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____
Joint member surname: _____
Initials: _____
Send to: The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, FREEPOST, Sandy, Beds SG19 2BR.

RSPB Reg Charity No. 207055

The cat that drooled over dynamite

SINGLE LIFE

Lynne Truss bemoans feline reluctance to play the game



thought it was so funny that he kept smiling at me through the glass, and nodding.

I suppose all this gratitude stuff has been brought to mind because I recently purchased a very expensive cat-accessory, which has somehow failed to elicit huzzahs of appreciation. In fact, it has been completely cold-shouldered. Called a "cat's cradle", it is a special fluffy-covered cat-hammock which hooks on to a radiator. The cat is suspended in a cocoon of warmth. A brilliant invention, you might think. Any rational cat would jump straight into it. Too stupid to appreciate the full glory of my gift, however, my own cat sleep underneath it (as though it shelters them from rain), and I begin to lose patience.

"Come on, kitties," I rubbed my cheek on the fluffy stuff. "Isn't this lovely? Wouldn't this make you feel like a — well, er, like an Eastern potentate, or a genie on a magic carpet, or a very fortunate cat having a nice lie-down suspended from a radiator?" However, I stopped this approach after a week of failure. Now I pull on my thick gardening gloves, grab a wriggling cat by the waist, and hold it firmly on its new bed for about 45 seconds until it breaks away.

Actually, the window-cleaner

I am reminded of a rather inadequate thing that men sometimes say to women, in an attempt to reassure them. The woman says, "I never know if you love me, Jonathan", and the man replies smoothly, "Well, I'm here, aren't I?" The sub-text in this corny evasion (which fools nobody) is a very interesting cheat — it suggests that should the slightest thing be wrong with this man's affections, he would of course push off immediately into the wintry night, rather than spend another minute compromising his integrity at the nice fireside with cups of tea.

Having a cat, I find, makes you susceptible this fine line of reasoning — perhaps because it is your only direct line of consolation. "I wonder if he loves me," you think occasionally (perhaps as you search the doormat in vain for Valentines with paw-prints on them). And then you gently lift the can-opener from its velvet cushion in the soundproofed kitchen, and with a loud ker-chunk-chunk a cat comes cannoning through the cat-flap, and scids backwards across the lino on its bum. And you think cheerfully, "Well, of course he does. I mean, he's here, isn't he?"

TOMORROW Private Life: John Diamond

TV rights

All the world's a stage, at a price

DONALD COOPER

THEATRE

Kenneth Rea reports on the actors and directors who must be prepared to subsidise or underwrite their own stage shows

A few months ago a well-known London fringe theatre invited me to direct a play for them. This seemed an attractive proposition, until it emerged that neither I nor the cast would be paid anything. Balancing altruism, egoism and my own financial state, I rapidly concluded that I could not afford it and we parted amicably. But where I feared to tread, others were more than happy to rush in; in fact the British theatre is virtually built on a hidden covenant whereby the workers subsidise the profession.

Examples abound of prominent actors working for a pittance in order to play exciting roles. When Deborah Warner's award-winning Royal Shakespeare Company production of *Electra* was revived recently at the Riverside Studios, people were turned away every night, yet Fiona Shaw and her fellow actors drew £180 a week.

While a new television series of *Van der Valk* makes him a household name, Barry Foster is rightly giving a bravura performance in *The Gigli Concerto* at the Almeida, for £165 a week. After a five-week sell-out season at the Gate Theatre of Katie Mitchell's acclaimed production of *The Women of Troy*, the actors and director were each handed nothing except £69 towards their expenses.

Now if a group of master builders decided to construct a house without pay, we might think they were touched by sainthood or lunacy. Yet when actors and directors exploit themselves by working for little or nothing, we accept that those are the ways of the theatre.

This is nothing new, of course. Actors have been subsidising the profession for centuries. But despite the advent of state funding, the Thespian's lot has not got much better. The current Equity minimum wage for actors in repertory theatres is a mere £147, and that is for doing eight performances a week, plus rehearsals. Compare the average weekly wage of £236 for manual workers and £312 for non-manual workers. Even the West End minimum is only £210, though most leading actors will be earning well above that. On top of this is the fact that under a new law, young actors are taxed as

business, couldn't possibly afford to live on.

"In this day and age", adds Foster, "to do the kind of work you want to do you have to be willing to subsidise the theatre with more grandly financed work."

Even the National Theatre is bound by cost-cutting that makes it reliant on the kindness of those who work there. Top photographers take production photos for a third the rate they charge for West End shows. One star actor claims he can earn more in a couple of hours of voice-overs than in a couple of months at the National. And last year 650 unsolicited play scripts arrived. All were read but none reached the stage.

Paradoxically, some of the most adventurous theatres are now the ones with the least money. Because they have little to lose they can take risks that are beyond the means of the more lavishly funded theatres. The 60-seat Gate Theatre is repeatedly praised and showered with awards, yet its director Stephen Daldry runs the operation on a frayed shoestring, paying himself and two others £110 a week, forsaking marketing and putting what money there is onto the stage.

Even then he cannot afford to pay the actors. But he did mount 16 new productions last year, an output that was eclipsed only by the RSC and the National.

It is unlikely, however, that the Gate will ever be funded to do the job properly. "The Gate is a minute theatre but a huge organisation," says Daldry. "At one point a couple of months ago we had 54 actors in a situation such as ours. It's awful. Of course I wish I could afford to pay them properly, but we are spectacularly underfunded. On the other hand we know it's the only way, given the present economic climate, to do the kind of work we do, so we put up with it."

Foster, who has been at the Almeida for five months in *The Gigli Concerto*, explains: "Doing Tom Murphy's play at the Almeida is nothing to do with money. Because of other work in television and films I'm able to live for five months on money which my daughters, who are in the same

actor for £165? You don't have to persuade them. That's the awful thing about it," says the Almeida's joint-artistic director, Ian McDiarmid. "Unfortunately it's what actors expect to be paid in a situation such as ours. It's awful. Of course I wish I could afford to pay them properly, but we are spectacularly underfunded. On the other hand we know it's the only way, given the present economic climate, to do the kind of work we do, so we put up with it."

But without the Gate "exploiting" everyone, the public would not have the chance to discover forgotten classics such as *Tirso de Molina's Damned for Despair* and actors would not get the opportunity to play in them. That is why those lucky enough to get it happily regard work in television or commercials as a way of subsidising a stretch on the fringe. Another



Bravura work on a budget: Barry Foster is starring in *The Gigli Concerto*, for £165 a week

reason is that a showcase in London is a good career investment. It has earned Daldry his next job as artistic director of the Royal Court and has made Kate Mitchell a director at the RSC.

But the cost of mounting a production, even in a pub theatre, is daunting. Ex-RSC actors Malcolm Freeman and Graham Watts have just set up a new company, Tramline Productions, and their first show, an unknown Jacobean play called *A Woman is a Weathercock*, opens at the tiny Pentameters theatre in north London tonight. The enterprise has cost them nearly £10,000 and that is without paying the actors.

How can they do it? "We're on

the dole," says Freeman, whose last job, apart from voice-overs, was in August. "If you're an actor you want to perform. And when the opportunity for something exciting comes along, you look at it very hard. Adverts may make thousands of pounds, but they don't show up well on the CV."

When Glen Goel left the title role in the West End production of *M Butterfly* to form an Asian theatre company, Mu Lan, neither funders nor sponsors were interested. So he poured his savings into Mu Lan and kept the scale small. His latest production, *Madame Mao's Memories*, was a one-woman show featuring Tsai Chin. "Even then we had to appeal to the goodness of our families and friends for their financial support," says Goel. "Ev-

eryone involved gave their services gratis. My company manager receives no salary. I pay his expenses from my own pocket and now my savings have run out."

Like it or not, theatre is the living proof of Darwin's theories: the companies you see are the survivors. As Stephen Daldry says, "if we all started organising our lives around the money available, I think we'd stop dreaming. You have to have the ability to say it's not about the money."

Glen Goel has just received some Arts Council funding and is busy planning his next production. Malcolm Freeman is confident that he will raise his £10,000. And when he advertised for actors to work without pay, there were 700 applicants. Somehow, the show goes on.

ARTS BRIEF Stepped short

ENGLISH National Ballet has announced a shorter London season this summer, cutting its annual Coliseum appearance from two weeks to one, following the poor box-office returns recorded last year. But there is still plenty of new work on offer when the season opens on June 23. There will be the world premiere of a work from the Danish-born choreographer Kim Brandstrup, two works by the American David Parsons receiving their British premieres (*The Envelope* and *Sleep Studies*), and Ben Stevenson's *L* getting a company premiere.

Dane's gain

THE National Film and Television School at Beaconsfield has crossed the North Sea in its search for a director to replace the retiring Colin Young. The successful candidate is Henning Camre, aged 53, director of the Danish Film School since 1975 and chairman of the Danish State Film Studio. Camre's former students include Bille August, director of the Oscar-winning *Pelle the Conqueror*. Camre trained as a cameraman.

Last chance...

IMAGINE Kate Bush managed to a piano, and you will get an idea of the warbling and writhing that American singer-songwriter Tori Amos goes in for. Armed with a venomous turn of phrase, Amos takes relish in essaying the anger and pain of a woman not to be trifled with. Despite a four-week run in the Top 20, her estimable album, *Little Earthquakes*, has yet to produce a hit single. Amos is at the Norwich Arts Centre (0603 660052) tonight; Spring Street Theatre, Hull (0482 23638) tomorrow; and Sheffield University (0742 724076) on Friday.

TOMORROW IN LIFE & TIMES

Streisand in full flow:
Geoff Brown reviews
The Prince of Tides
and the other new films

Erich Segal, whose new novel is published tomorrow, talks to Michael Freedland

Portrait of an author revealed but not exposed



Erich Segal: "I am a perpetual scholar"

Erich Segal would dearly love to be remembered for his treatise on Plato. Instead, this former professor of classics at Yale is likely to go to his grave with these words as his memorial: "Love means never having to say you're sorry."

Colin's phrase made him a fortune, or at least contributed to the fortune from *Love Story*, the book and film which included this example of late-20th century philosophy. Now, with the publication tomorrow of his sixth novel, *Acts of Faith* (Hutchinson, £14.99), he is still more excited by the prospect of writing a new piece on Latin literature, which doesn't mean that he is indifferent to the concept of selling film rights.

"From your mouth to God's ears," he says when I raise the subject of those rights in his Hampstead home. He lives in Britain because he married a British woman and is the father of two British daughters. "Besides, I like England." If where he lives is not typically literary Hampstead, then neither is he. So has he sold out? "Certainly not," he says, but without rancour.

"There is no price high enough to make me sell out. I still get more pleasure writing a classical article than producing a best-seller. I am not being disingenuous, because I do appreciate the fact that I can afford to buy books that I would otherwise have to borrow from a library. I am a perpetual scholar."

This 54-year-old native of Brooklyn has had plenty of time to adjust to his current situation since he took the chance to supplement the \$3,000 he earned as a Yale lecturer to write the screen-play for the Beatles film *Yellow Submarine* in the Sixties. *Love Story* followed soon after. He was still teaching at Yale and still producing articles such as "The Comedy of Plautus" and winning a Guggenheim Fellowship in-between.

In the intervening years, he has written more than 100 scholarly articles and five non-fiction books (including

the definitive study of Caesar Augustus), worked for the Peace Corps, picked up three Emmy nominations, lectured in Tokyo and Tel Aviv, at Johns Hopkins and in Hamburg. He sometimes writes in German, and a shelf of his study is taken up with 80 volumes of German classical dictionary, which he says scholars envy more than anything else.

In his novels, Segal likes to think he holds nothing back. For the same reason that he eschewed for his "pop" books the notion of the pseudonym that other academics might have required, he is happier than most to bare his soul. It is quite easy to believe that he himself does reveal all at the speed of his own choosing. His books, even the best-sellers, are by way of being a personal striptease.

"I have never revealed more of myself than in this new book," he says, although

he denies it is entirely autobiographical. In fact, Segal, the son of a rabbi, writes in *Acts of Faith* about... the son of a rabbi. (He also writes about a daughter of a rabbi who becomes one herself, and about a boy called Tim Hogan who beats up little Jews, breaks their windows and later becomes a Catholic priest.) His rabbis talk the talk, he remembers rabbis talked. Sometimes, his priests do too.

"I can remember several times during my Brooklyn childhood when I was beaten up by the likes of Tim Hogan as I walked to my Hebrew school," he says. "I never really understood why the mere sight of him in my skullcap aroused such rage." His own parents were a profound influence on him. His father died when he was 52 years old, "weighing 180 pounds", which is one reason for the son's own gym and swimming pool and why he has a man who comes to work out with him every day. As which is the trophy he is proudest of — certificates for his doctorates and literary awards and the Emmy nominations, along with photograph of Ryan O'Neal, Ali MacGraw, and the director Arthur Hiller from *Love Story* sent to him on his fiftieth birthday, cover the walls of his study — and he will point to the statuette which shows

he won a 33-mile race qualifying him for the London-Brighton marathon of 1963.

But it isn't just in this negative physical sense that he is strongly influenced by his father. The older Segal wanted Erich to be a rabbi like himself. Instead, the younger man chose a secular life away from religion. Now that is in his past, along with his father. He has become something of a Born-Again Jew, as he puts it. I note the stream of Biblical and Talmudic references which uses in our conversation.

He says he was born "with a golden chain around my soul. As far as the horizon of our memories, every generation in my family had produced a rabbi. And then I broke the chain and probably my father's heart. This breach of faith has haunted me. I do feel guilty about that. I hope that *Acts of Faith* is overshadowed by an elegiac awareness of lost lives.

His mother was one of the hostages captured by Idi Amin at Entebbe and later rescued by the Israelis. "That event has affected practically everything I have done and written since. It made me write more passionately."

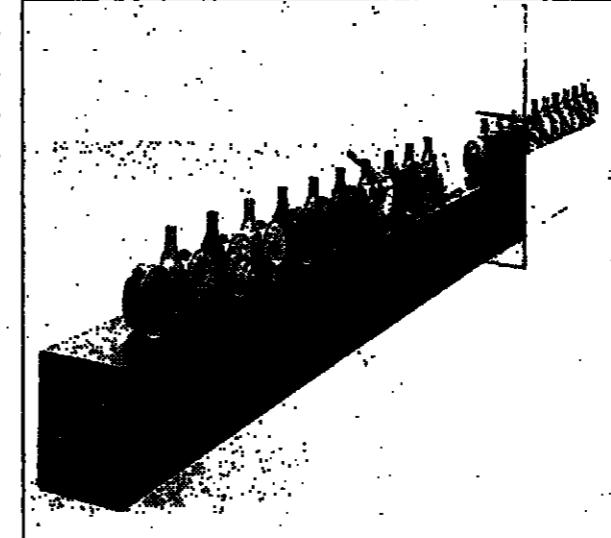
Segal works hard, helped by fax machines and computers, one giving him, on a single disc, access to the entire Oxford English Dictionary and another containing every word in the Greek language. He gets up at four o'clock in the morning and plays Bach on his miniature piano. "I play very badly, but fortunately I make my living doing other things. But there was a time when I fancied a musical career, so this is why of repetition for not doing it."

But there are still other things to do. Segal appreciates all the things his money has brought him, yet he still has the ambitions of a 20-year-old. And he adds: "The only thing I still haven't got is a genuine literary reputation. I may never get it, just as I never got a real athletic reputation. I won't get it now but I can still try for the literary socials. I am a tyke."

But he feels guilty about the success he has had. "I don't feel bad when people read a classical book of mine because I know the work that has gone into it and I feel that I have contributed to their understanding. But I certainly have not contributed through my novels to the advancement of civilization. I'd like to write things of more import. I do think that *Acts of Faith* is a plunge in that direction."

Orderly salutes to the fallen

Richard Cork on the recent work of artist Tony Carter, influenced by the war in the Gulf



Monumental work of life-death polarity: Tony Carter's *American Dream*, at the Imperial War Museum

of vessels on the stage beneath, and the stars spangle the dark with an apparently festive abandon.

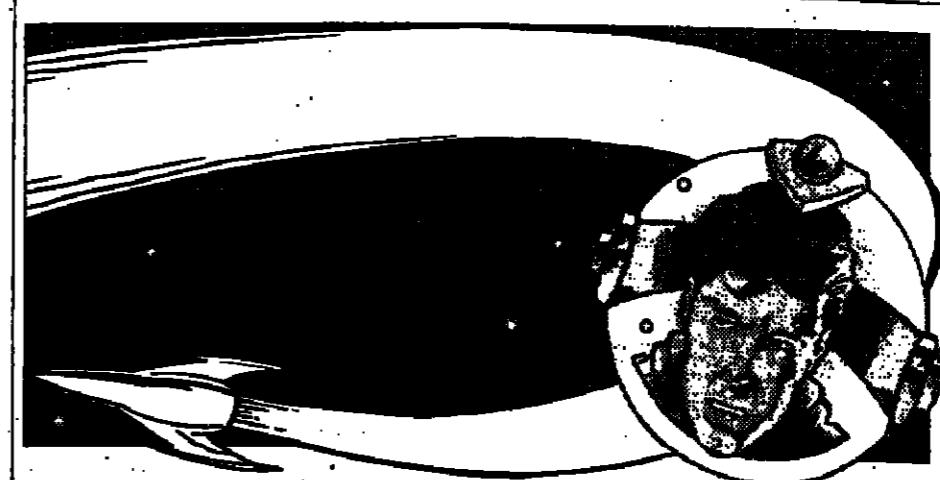
After a time, though, the prevailing blackness of the painting becomes oppressive. It encourages us to remember that many of these vibrant points of light derive from celestial bodies which died a long time ago.

The only work which offers redemption in this predominantly mournful survey centres on two framed photographs of paintings owned by the National Gallery. Both contain images of the Christian Church's symbolic shepherd's crook, held in one panel by St Nicholas as he brings three awed boys back from the dead. Between the photographs, Carter has installed a crook of his own. Leaning against the wall, it consists mainly of a Perspex tube filled with red wine.

Divorced from the familiar context of a bottle, the liquid comes to resemble blood instead. But any threat of spillage is countered, here, by the stopper placed in the top: an ingenious combination of a .303 bullet, a sharpened steel bar and a brass knife-blade bent in a tender curve to echo the apex of the Saint's crook. Weapons have been incorporated in this remarkable object only to be robbed of their aggression, like the German Mauser rifle-but which Gaudier-Brzeska carved into a gentler image just before he died in the first world war.

Carter provides a show which demonstrates how an awareness of war can deepen an artist's work, giving its austerity the eloquence of a lament.

• The exhibition continues at the Imperial War Museum (071-16 5000) until March 15. Tony Carter's other show is at the Anthony Reynolds Gallery (071-491 0621) until February 29.



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MANWATCH

I think, he knows, so who wins?

Stephanie Calman argues for a little give and take in disputes between the sexes

Recently I had dinner with a couple who I know enjoy a good argument. At one point the subject turned to alternative health care. He said that people who presume to treat serious medical conditions with regard to emotional factors are either misguided or dishonest. I said I believed that many physical ailments have an emotional basis, and therefore respond to a therapeutic approach. He dismissed this. But, I said, I know people whose conditions have been alleviated or even cured in this way.

"You can't measure it," he rejoined. "Anyway, that's anecdotal evidence. It doesn't count."

It seems to me that the way in which human experience is interpreted is precisely

what makes arguing fun in the first place. But that is to get a kick out of arguing for its own sake. Why should its purpose be, as one male friend of mine insists, to "bring the other person round to your point of view"? That motive implies success and failure, a winner and a loser.

Surely one can merely flex the verbal muscles without having to throw a punch? It's a dinner-table chat; it's not Newsnight. Yet many men approach an argument with almost military defensiveness.

This is only anecdotal, naturally, but on a visit to friends who had lived in Saudi Arabia, I joined in a discussion about the death penalty for adultery there. My friend's boss, an old Saudi hand, stated that the law was the law, plain and simple. I ventured that I thought execution for sleeping with the wrong person a bit harsh. That, he said, was not the point. Well, OK, I said: what if it was his wife?

"You're reacting emotionally," he said, and pronounced the debate closed.

I wish I could have heard the conversation between him and his wife on their way home. If sex and death aren't personal, what are they?

Men arguing with each other is not a problem. Two or more men can spend hours constructing a verbal edifice out of certainties no more solid than the patterns on their ties. A disagreement can even form part of an underlying pact: not to spoil the posturing by introducing anything so mundane as real life.

In the face of opposition which threatens the foundations of the edifice, men tell women that their

'Surely one can merely flex the verbal muscles without having to throw a punch?'

ideas are irrelevant. These are facts; that's only your opinion. Thus do men discount women's experience and opinions in debate.

That I have observed this far more often in people's homes than on radio or television is, I suspect, another victory of style over content. The prevailing approach on many discussion programmes is adversarial but favours what is no doubt imagined to be an "objective" treatment. It is a rare producer who places the health minister opposite an NHS patient. At home, over the food and wine, the gloves really come off.

Since the matter under discussion is almost always open to interpretation, one view should be as good as another.

Yet women frequently find themselves marginalised. A thesis prefaced, "I think . . ." just doesn't have the same resonance of authority as: "It is . . ."

This gives the impression of objectivity, no matter how irrational the notion. How much more impressive, for example, to be the bearer of a well-known fact, rather than merely the experience of people you know.

In a classic of the genre the other day, a fellow writer extrapolated from one remark by one artistic director the "fact" that the entire theatrical establishment is prejudiced against plays written by men.

The examples I came up with to counter this — Friel, Pinter, Ayckbourn — were all dismissed as exceptions. I couldn't help thinking afterwards that if he had revealed the origins of his grievance, and shared his own experience, it might have been a more interesting afternoon.

I listened to a man and a woman I know advancing the pros and cons of cohabitation versus marriage. She favoured the former. He was against.

"But you live with [your girlfriend] now," she said finally. "You're personalised it," he said, and completed his exposition by leaving the room.

A male colleague tells me that they always want to discuss the relationship just when you're going to sleep. Who said anything about relationships?

"Oh, it's all about that really," he said.

"You're reacting emotionally," I told him, and hung up.

A British woman in Romania found a horrifying fate awaiting healthy orphans. Ray Clancy reports

ADRIAN BROOKS



Bright eyes, dark future: Sophie Thurnham with a boy at the refurbished orphanage in Ionaseni, 50 miles away from Podriga where, aged 18, he may be forced to go

Rotting in Romania

On the day that Sophie Thurnham, a 24-year-old British woman, arrived at the remote Podriga state hospital in the north of Romania last November, the sun was shining but it was bitterly cold. The hospital for the mentally and physically disabled, a former nobleman's house, looked majestic. Its turrets and stone pillars hid scraps of human misery.

One of the first things Miss Thurnham saw was a dead man lying, unattended, on a bed surrounded by half-naked patients.

That image prompted her to begin the task of bringing some sort of normality to the stinking, disease-infested hospital where 80 people existed rather than lived.

She persuaded the staff at

Podriga to allow her, and the two aid workers who arrived with her, to clean up the hospital.

"They didn't mind us cleaning out the drains and washing people because it was work that they never did anyway," she says. After the first day she just kept going back and was tolerated rather than welcomed.

The conditions had been horrific. She had seen her adopted handicapped brother Stevie, now aged 17, enjoy life with a family. "I was brought up to believe that everyone has the right to a decent life," she says. "I just could not sit back and see these children sent to an institution where they would be mistreated."

She arrived in Podriga to find "one cook, one fire lit and the dead man lying on a dirty bed in an outhouse that was being used as a dormitory," she says. "The temperature was well below freezing and the people were half naked."

She had spent a year creating a safe haven at Ionaseni. I wondered what was the point of working so hard building a decent environment if they were to be thrown back into the rags and filth of Podriga.

She found herself up against unhelpful bureaucracy, corruption

and theft. At Podriga clothes and food sent from the West are routinely stolen by staff or people close to them. Items are sold on the blackmarket or consumed at home.

The man in charge at Podriga locks all food away in his storeroom. "When Wandsworth prison sent boxes of oranges and jars of peanut butter and lemon curd they were immediately put in the locked storeroom. The next day I asked for the oranges so that I could share them out but was met with blank looks and 'What oranges'?"

With her usual determination

Miss Thurnham pushed into the storeroom and brought out the oranges. There was sheer delight on their faces. It was wonderful."

She had identified one of the main problems preventing reform in hospitals in Romania — lack of motivation by the staff. Romania has never had a teaching hospital for nurses. Only those women who could do nothing else were forced by the regime to become nurses with only basic training.

Changes have been forthcoming at Podriga due to Miss Thurnham's organisational abilities and to the skills of her two companions, nurses Collette Hughes from Belfast and Maureen Bonar from Edinburgh. The patients are now in neat dormitories and Miss Thurnham has stitched curtains to brighten the rooms. "We were sent tins of cream paint but the authorities would not let us paint the walls because they said all hospital walls should be white. That was a joke because the walls were already a

dusty brown colour because of the filth."

There is still no running water. The stench of human urine is only cancelled out by the smell of human excrement. The problem of the lack of water could be solved relatively simply. Miss Thurnham has continuously lobbied the local health department in Botosani who promised to investigate the chances of bringing running water to Podriga.

"They commissioned a survey of the most expensive project imaginable that involved sinking wells at the cost of £15,000. We pointed out that all that was needed was a simple pipeline to bring mains water seven kilometres from Saveni. The problem is exacerbated because they think that the West should pay for everything. They draw up a costly plan and then challenge the West to pay."

She does not like her efforts being described as a one-woman crusade. She points out that without the help and commitment of the aid workers from the Romanian Project UK, Scottish branch, she would have been unable to help. Where she has excelled, however, is in bringing the conditions to the notice of the Romanian authorities. When her father, Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP for Bolton north east, visited Podriga she accompanied him to a meeting with the department of health where the health minister Mircea Maioraru said he had no money to improve conditions in hospitals. "It was so frustrating. He did not even know that Podriga existed," Miss Thurnham says.

There is a spark of hope. One

official at the health department indicated that she was aware of the task facing Romania. "We have no social welfare system, no facilities for patients to be cared for in the community," said Diana Nistorescu, the director general responsible for health care. "The population at large would simply rather forget about psychiatric patients because these people are a source of discomfort." But plans have been drawn up for a nurses teaching college that includes a special course in psychiatric nursing.

Although there are now eight British aid workers at Podriga the Romanian workers continue to do as little as possible and the daily tasks take their toll. Not unnaturally, Miss Thurnham and her colleagues suffer from periodic bouts of depression, days when the work seems fruitless. "It is hard to keep going. Each evening as we finish work there is a chorus of enquiries as to whether or not we are coming back the next day," Miss Thurnham says. They live in a small apartment in Saveni that has no hot water but is luxury compared with Podriga.

"I don't think any of us could return to normal life until things have changed here. Working at the orphanage showed me that drastic change was possible. I have given myself a deadline of October to return to Britain. If I have managed to get running water to Podriga I shall feel a certain sense of satisfaction."

Anyone wishing to make a donation for improvements at Podriga should contact the Project Fund, Romanian Project UK, Scottish Branch, 14 Frederick Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HB.

Labours of love, or maybe just a rip-off

Housework is done by women so men can have some kind of a social life, Selma James says. She wants the men to pay up



Seventies heaven: beats it sweeps as it cleans

way for their husbands to have some kind of a social life. It is invisible work, but no less valuable for that."

Ms James's first feminist polemic appeared as a free pamphlet, *A Woman's Place*, published in 1953 by Correspondence, an underground organisation based in New York. *A Woman's Place* developed into a regular column written under the pseudonyms Marie Bratz and Ellen Santori, because the politically repressive McCarthy era was then in full swing. The reason she emigrated to England was to marry C.L.R. James, the cricket writer, historian and Marxist, who had been deported from the United States. Mr James died three years ago.

The housework we do — laundry, cleaning, shopping, preparing and cooking meals, caring for the ill and elderly, giving emotional support — all enables other people to do their jobs. A lot of the work wives do is really to make a

and cheaper for the taxpayer, if men simply shared the burden of housework, is one Ms James dismisses with the indulgent smile of a 62-year-old grandmother who has learnt a thing or two about human nature. "Many women don't have a man to share the housework with in any case but the idea that men, out of the goodness of their hearts, are going to turn themselves into the slaves that we are is not a practical one. The ones who put forward the whole have all pairs, day cleaners or servants and are often feminists."

She has also learned a thing or two about feminists over the years and has decided that she is no longer one of them. "In 1971 I called myself a feminist, but now I avoid the description because feminism has come to mean careerism at the expense of other women — and other men. It has meant a few women getting good posts but feminists have not represented women. Feminism is a kind of competition for power in the popular mind with which I don't want to be associated."

There are, she says, two questions women always ask when confronted by the concept of wages for housework. "Who will pay for it?" and "Will we ever get it?" Her answers are "Trident" — she would syphon off the entire military budget to pay for unremunerated labour — and "Yes".

Her optimism springs from existing welfare provisions. "Child benefit and income support are forms of recognition that women working in the home have an entitlement to wages, even though it is not enough. Those benefits are

creeping wages for housework and after you creep you walk, after you walk you run."

Wages for housework should not be confined to women who stay at home looking after children, Ms James says. Single women, because they earn so much less than men should get it too, she argues — as Ms should women whose children have grown up or who have no children. And she is not worried that men might demand housework wages as most surveys show they hardly do any.

Who would monitor how well or stoppy the housework is being done? Who, she counters, monitors doctors?

Ms James does some monitoring of her own. She recently wrote to British Gas to complain she had to wait for half an hour in Kilburn High Road, north London. She

and never-ending, to be paid for asked them: "Are you going to pay me for the work I did saving your employing someone behind the counter?" They have replied assuring her they will examine the point she raises.

Such small skirmishes leave Ms James with no sense of defeatism. A core of 30 women working at WFFH's headquarters is enough, she insists, to "lift mountains". "But it is still individual women rebelling in their individual homes who will make this campaign work. A lot of women let their sons and husbands iron their own shirts, or they buy drip-dry. All of this gets a message across. It also strikes a bit of terror into the hearts of men that you are just not going to take it."

HEATHER KIRBY

A feast, and no lie

ALUXURY holiday for two in Tokyo, a family break at EuroDisney and a seven day Mediterranean Cruise for the five-star *Stella Solaris* are up for auction at the George Washington Ball next Wednesday. The ball, which funds the George Washington Business Scholarship — a post-graduate grant enabling a young British executive to attend a school of business administration in the US — and the Evelyn Wrench Awards, will take place at The Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane, London W1, and costs £90 including champagne reception, dinner with wine, ball and entertainment. There are still some tickets left, and organisers are anxious for a full-house. Enquiries to Celia Parker at the English Speaking Union, Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London W1X 8AB (01-493 3328).

Affair offer

THE catering advice booklet "It's Your Affair" is preparing to launch its 1992 edition. Although it targets the Jewish wedding and bar-mitzvah market, it sells itself with tongue in cheek. "Beckie you're looking wonderful! What have you been up to?" "Well, Sadie, guess what I'm having an affair!" "An affair! Wonderful! Tell me, who's doing the catering?"

The booklet carries advertisement for caterers, dress hire companies, cake-makers and toastmasters in the London area. Helping Hands Information Services, 7 Orchard Close, Elstree, Hertfordshire WD6 3PR (0895 8444) will happily send out copies.

VICTORIA MCKEE



Trancing for beginners

Alice Thomson attends a hypnotherapy group session and, despite concentrating terribly hard, remains a sceptic

Stephen Brooks is a new age hypnotist. He doesn't get women to strip off their clothes on stage, ask them to eat onions as though they were apples or tell people to look into his eyes. All he wants to do is to change their lives.

There are more than two thousand practising hypnotherapists in Britain claiming to use natural techniques to help people give up smoking, lose weight or conquer their phobias for the price of a thousand cigarettes. Mr Brooks teaches people how to do it for themselves and holds weekend self-hypnosis courses in London for members of the medical profession. Now he wants to bring hypnosis to the masses. He dreams of seeing his self-hypnosis course in every town in Britain by the year 2000.

Recently Mr Brooks held the first of his new courses at Stepping Hill hospital in Stockport, Greater Manchester. "We go into trances involuntarily every day but I am going to teach you how to control your mind travel," Mr Brooks says. "You will learn how to conquer stress, fear and pain and achieve your ambitions. You don't have to listen to anything I say, you will take it all in subconsciously. One day you will look back and see what you have achieved."

Mr Brooks has slicked-back hair, a healthy tan and a confident, soothing voice. The 40 people sitting in the canary-coloured room shuffle expectantly. Most of them have come with a problem. They have read the advertisement in *Nursing Times*, the *British Medical Journal* or the *Manchester Evening News* and have been willing to spend £111.62 for the course.

Vic, a retired schoolteacher, was a little deaf and worried that he wouldn't be able to hear. Joanne, a retired nurse, was concerned there might be side-effects and we could all go mad. "You will have eight psychotherapists, the cream of the country, to help you to achieve

your objectives. All my assistants and I want you to do is relax and trust us," Mr Brooks says.

The assistants comprise a selection of committed self-hypnotists who have all been trained on Mr Brooks's four-month weekend diploma course in integral therapy (hypnosis) and are now practising private hypnotherapists.

Vic is sceptical. Mr Brooks brings him to the front and in a soporific voice he asks Vic to count to 20 with him and concentrate on a point on the ceiling. As Vic's head begins to nod, Mr Brooks says: "There are two words in your vocabulary that you are going to change, Vic. Every time you want to say *But* you will say *And*. Saying the word *But* will make you feel guilty, silly or strange Vic. Your life is going to change for the positive."

Coming out of the trance, Vic still feels he hasn't achieved anything. "I am wasting all your time. I have few friends and I feel very lonely," he says, still sounding negative (without the buns). Next it was Gill's turn. Gill, a teacher, kept dreaming of a limousine. The rest of the class began to go into a trance as we were told to focus first on objects in the room and then inside our heads. Once we thought we were in a trance we could introduce objectives that we wanted to achieve, like buying a limousine.

I still didn't feel I was achieving that higher state. "What do you want to do, levitate?" Mr Brooks says. By lunchtime Joanne was unconvinced. "He is like a car salesman, all chancer and no goods," she says. Mario agrees.

Back in the classroom, Mr Brooks decides to take us all on holiday to a tropical island. I close my eyes and fall asleep, weighed down more by the lunchtime spaghetti than by Mr Brooks' words and miss out on going down the hill and onto the beach where Mr Brooks tells everyone to put all their worries into a black cloud.

We form into pairs. Bob, a retired neurologist and now a hypnotist, usually works with sufferers of irritable bowel syndrome. He has to come on the course because he is so shy he finds it hard to hypnotise people.

The doubters were then told a story to reassure us that we, too, could eventually find self-hypnotists. Mr Brooks told us about a man who wanted to have perfect sight again. He had gone blind to revert to childhood and the man's sight was restored, at least until he remembered he had been hypnotised.

Like an evangelical prayer meeting every miracle cure story was confirmed by a chorus from his assistants.

"Other therapists go into it looking for something in themselves. I went into it for the money and for the satisfaction I get from helping people to change their lives," Mr Brooks says during tea.

He was a hypnotist on television when he was 12 and "my parents said 'don't ever go near one of those people'. The next time I crept into one of his shows and I was hooked."

Eighteen years ago, aged 23, Mr Brooks became a pupil of an American named Milton Erickson, a psychiatrist who had a hypnosis practice in America. "Hypnotherapy wasn't taken seriously in Britain when I started my practice, so ten years ago I set up a training course for people in the medical profession. They began to send their patients, so I decided to throw the course open to everyone." His weekends in London accommodate 100 people.



What do you most want to get out of your life? Stephen Brooks gives Alice Thomson some singular attention at the session in Stepping Hill hospital, Stockport

retired neurologist and now a hypnotist, usually works with sufferers of irritable bowel syndrome. He has to come on the course because he is so shy he finds it hard to hypnotise people.

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Hoping for a revelation, I volunteered as a subject the next morning. Mr Brooks told me to relax and attempted to put me into a trance. Then he asked me to clench my fist and put all my determination and confidence into that hand. "You can't open that hand now, can you?" he says.

I could. I was beginning to feel a complete failure. "Try and imagine what you want to achieve and keep telling yourself what you will do to achieve it," Mr Brooks says. I felt far too relaxed to give myself any suggestions. "Not to worry," Mr Brooks says.

Mr Brooks rarely practises on his wife. But recently, when she had morning sickness, he hypnotised her every morning before work and she was fine, he says, until he came home in the evening. He never gets tired or stressed even when he spent 22 consecutive weekends teaching self-hypnosis courses in London last summer. He hopes to use the proceeds from the self-hypnosis business for his main passion in life: setting up an Aids centre in Thailand to educate people on the disease.

After lunch on the second day and still no dramatic result, Mr Brooks asks us to decide what we want to give up: smoking, drinking, eating? This is what many of the women have been waiting for, a miraculous way to shed that slab. Brian comes up to the front. He has been a heavy smoker since his wife died. Mr Brooks gives him two images to think of when picks up a cigarette. His father dying of chronic emphysema and then his children hugging him. Which would he prefer? The children, Brian begins to cry. He will not smoke anymore. Mr Brooks is enthusiastic. "You're a human being," he says. "You deserve great love." The chorus takes notes.

There is an awed silence among the initiates. As the course draws to a close, most people are feeling positive. Even Joanne is buoyant. Mario is not happy. "I have been waiting to feel an altered state of consciousness and I haven't," he says. But even Mario is swapping addresses with the leggy nurse at the end of the afternoon.

Course details: British Hypnosis Research, 8 Paston Place, Brighton, Sussex BN2 1HA.

Foster but looser

The architect of the home of a black theatre company was determined to avoid any hint of "ethnic dogma"



Relaxed approach: Abiodum Odedina, the architect

The result is the remodelled Cochrane, costing nearly £500,000 pounds, and paid for with the Roundhouse money and a matching sum from the London Institute.

But since the early 1960s, one corner of the art school has been enveloped by an extension — concrete frame, slate-grey precast concrete panels, flat roof — the kind of flimsy-looking building people only notice when they are looking for a scapegoat. And now, in the past few days, a further extension — an extension to the extension, or a "remodelling", as the architect prefers to call it — has been revealed as scaffolding is stripped away.

From the outside, it takes the form of a spectacular curved green glass blister at first-floor level, partly cantilevered and partly hung by cables out over the pavement below. The purpose of the 1960s extension was to house a theatre, the Cochrane, which was designed as a practice space for the theatre design students of the art school. The purpose of the remodelling is to extend the audience space in the theatre.

The reason for this latest flurry of activity at the Cochrane is that it has just become home to Talawa, London's first black theatre company with its own theatre. Formed in 1985 with a last-gasp grant from the Greater London Council, Talawa had been operating as a production company, putting on one production a year at various venues.

Then the company was invited to make a bid for some of the Arts Council money originally earmarked for the abortive scheme to convert the Roundhouse in London into a black arts centre.

"People had been saying, 'Oh, there must be a home for black theatre,'" says the company's Jamaican-born artistic director, Yvonne Brewster. "Instead of just bleating we decided to get on and do it."

Rogers, Sir Norman Foster, Nicholas Grimshaw and Michael Hopkins.

The danger, Mr Odedina admits, was of ending up with three unrelated architectural units — the Grade II-listed original building, the 1960s extension, and the remodelling. The original building is serious and beefy, with arched ground floor windows and a heavy cornice above. Before the remodelling, it was separated from the extension by a narrow external corridor. Now, Mr Odedina has united the two by glazing over the corridor, using the cornice as a support for the glazing. "We have tried to touch the original building as lightly as possible," he explains. Unfortunately, an ugly enclosed bridge linking the two buildings remains visible through the glass. Mr Odedina's budget would not allow him to replace the bridge — but he reams

the IMI, the Royal Academy, to help to explain how a modern, high-tech intervention could be made to work in an older building. The difference, he likes to think, is that his work is "a bit more funky" than that of severe, monochromatic Sir Norman. "I love his stuff," he says. "I just think he should loosen up."

•*Talawa Theatre Company presents The Road by Wole Soyinka, the Cochrane Theatre, Southampton Row, London EC1, February 26 to March 28 at 7.30pm*

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Political mutton dressed up as lamb

Ludwig Wittgenstein constructed an entire system of philosophy on the impossibility of finding any single characteristic shared by everything which we call a game. The late professor could equally have chosen the word "news". News has no defining quality. Even the dictionary definition "important or recent interesting happenings" leaves obvious unanswered questions. What is important? What is recent? What even is happening?

In the day-to-day running of a newspaper or a television news programme, this presents few practical difficulties. A news editor who has to cogitate to see that "man bites dog" is a better story than "dog bites man" is not long for his métier. But the run-up to the general election is posing the

question in a way that has even the most instinctive news editors groping for an answer.

On Monday this week, the Tory party held a press conference on Labour and the trade unions. Labour held one on the National Health Service. So did the Liberals. On Tuesday Labour held not one, two, three but four such conferences. None of these related to anything in the news. None was likely to produce much that strictly qualified as news. Only the most promiscuous political groupies would mind if they were ignored in paper.

Such press conferences used to be confined to the period of the general election itself. One argument frequently used to dissuade prime ministers from long campaigns was that the conferences would become boring. But in the campaign of 1991-92, such press

conferences have been held already, most weekly, since last summer. Their tedium is undisputed, even by most of those giving them. Should they nevertheless be covered?

The parties are aware of the media temptation to say "no". Techniques abound for dressing up such events as "news". They include:

- The pseudo-policy. This consists of publishing a document of some kind setting out what the party will do in one policy area or another. Publication is the happening which is said to merit coverage. Were these genuinely new proposals, there could be no complaint. The difficulty comes

when previously published policies are reissued between fresh covers. Fresh covers have been pouring out of party headquarters these last few months.

- The pseudo-study. The party publishes what purports to be a study of a subject rather than simply an expression of opinion. Thus Labour has this month produced a survey showing that unemployment has doubled in marginal constituencies, and the Tories last month a document "costing" Labour's pledges at £36 billion. The quality of the information is secondary to the quality of the headline sought.

- The pseudo-poll. Both major parties release the results of

private polls. These are designed to give a hard fact that can lead off a soft story about a party's proposals by showing their alleged popularity. There is often a suspicion that the figures are rigged. Although newspapers can demand full publication of the poll under the Market Research Society's code, it rarely happens.

- The pseudo-poster. To get a picture published in the paper, the party unveils a poster heralding the start of a poster campaign. There may only be one copy of the poster.

- The opposition parties are driven to such devices. The days when parties spread their message by word of mouth have gone.

Communication today is media communication. For an opposition party that creates problems since, by definition, oppositions cannot actually do anything that affects the real world. If they did not use such devices, they would constantly be reacting to government. Government would set the agenda, choosing those issues on which days and on which ground.

Each day, when newspaper executives assemble to debate the day's paper, they will groan to hear that party X is holding a press conference on issue Y. Next morning their paper is nevertheless likely to report them. The best such reports will point out what is and what is not new, and will set the facts against the high-flown claims of the parties. But not to report would be to claim the role for which Stanley Baldwin so effectively chided the press: "power without responsibility... the prerogative of the harlot throughout the ages."

Analytic overkill

James Hogan argues that current affairs programmes on TV are dying for a bit of human interest

Most people who work in current affairs and factual programming on television know only too well that a vital ingredient has been missing for some time, despite the huge amount of programmes that fall into this broad category. Behind the scenes, there is a sense of malaise among programme-makers that transcends the effects of economic recession or the structural changes in the industry. They are aware that the viewer is currently being served up a diet of programmes that is far too uniform and exclusive, with an over-emphasis on abstract, analytical overkill.

There is nothing wrong with analysis. It is one way of telling the story. But it is not the only way or necessarily the best way. Too often self-consciously analytical programmes, lacking any sign of visual flair, appear to shut out the viewer, conducting an esoteric dialogue with other similarly-minded programme-makers. Layer upon layer of analysis, within programmes and across programme strands, produces needlessly dull and boring results. This has a deadening effect on the beleaguered viewer, who understandably jumps channels or switches off altogether.

It is no accident that current affairs audiences have

slumped in recent years, placing channel controllers in the invidious position of choosing between airing important issues and maintaining a lead in the ratings.

The ability to attract and sustain high audience figures will be critical in the new world of broadcasting. The idea, still fashionable among some programme makers, that audiences do not matter is a dangerous fallacy that betrays a desire for unaccountability. High audience figures should be to producers what votes are to politicians.

The real challenge is to maximise people's interest in current affairs and factual programmes. Up to now far too much energy has been spent on trying to rationalise viewing poor viewing figures.

So what is missing and how do we fill the gap? First of all, we need to go back to basics and remind ourselves what makes good television.

The essence of good television is popular, accessible programming that illuminates, excites, informs and entertains. There is no reason at all why current affairs programmes should not be entertaining and reach out to the widest possible audience. Indeed, in a plural democracy like ours it is essential that they should do so. Politics like television, is about personalities and people's lives as well as ideas.



Three tears for Maggie: no one could deny the magnetic spectacle provided by the downfall of Mrs Thatcher.

Some of the most gripping television has stemmed from equally gripping political dramas. No one could deny the magnetic spectacle provided by the downfall of Margaret Thatcher or the gradual slipping away of power from Mikhail Gorbachev after the abortive Soviet coup. Big events like these touch people, allowing programme-makers to break away from the set agenda and inject a more personal, energetic, less predictable style of coverage.

It is the raw material that is in short supply and often missing altogether: real people in tough situations. Instead of a surfeit of macro-economic programmes viewers want to hear about the real economy, personal finance; how people are coping with the recession; what happens to middle-managers when they lose their jobs.

Of course, there are programmes that deal with these subjects but the craze for analysis, putting everything into neat little boxes such as "politics" and "money", de-

velops the vital connections between these subjects. This approach frequently fails to follow through with the confrontations between those people most affected and the decision-makers.

Viewers are switching off because this analytical approach creates a dehumanised form of television that is ultimately neither very illuminating nor entertaining.

Viewers want to be more directly involved with programmes, using their experience to seek information, make a "point" or "test" an argument. There are not nearly enough programmes where the people who affect our lives or act as symbols are placed at the heart of the debate: not just politicians or businessmen, but actors, architects, advertising gurus, sportsmen and women, pop-stars, etc. Television's interactive potential should be exploited to a far greater extent using votes, phone-ins and competitions.

Analytical overkill has not only been responsible for denying the voice of the

people, it has also undermined the individuality of presenters. Chunks of analysis-laden video-tape frequently stand in the way of lively debate or cross-examination. We need to develop a whole new genre of programming in which the presenter is much more directly involved with all aspects of the programme and much more closely identified with the subject matter.

Up to now, some people have feared that the quest for high audiences would distort the truth and damage the authority of programme-makers. But this puts the argument the wrong way round. The starting point should be the enthusiastic commitment to real-life current affairs and factual programming, coupled with imaginative story-telling. Rising audience figures and appreciation will follow.

James Hogan, former BBC editor of Question Time and This Week, and senior producer of Panorama and Newsnight, is now managing director of Broadstone Productions

FRIDAY: MEDIA EXTRA

David Lloyd debates TV current affairs Melinda Wittstock on Capital News

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Ideally conversant with WordPerfect 5.1 (60-70 wpm) you may be required to use Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheets. A knowledge of database and DTP gained in a marketing department would also be useful, but not essential.

To apply please write with full CV to Julie Parker, at the address below. Please list separately any companies to whom you do not wish your application forwarded as replies will be sent direct to our client for consideration.

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CRÈME DE LA CRÈME CONTINUES ON

NEXT PAGE

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